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THE EAGLE HAS LANDED
NFL=NO FUN LEFT?**

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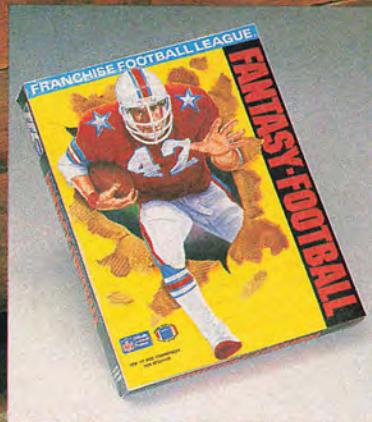
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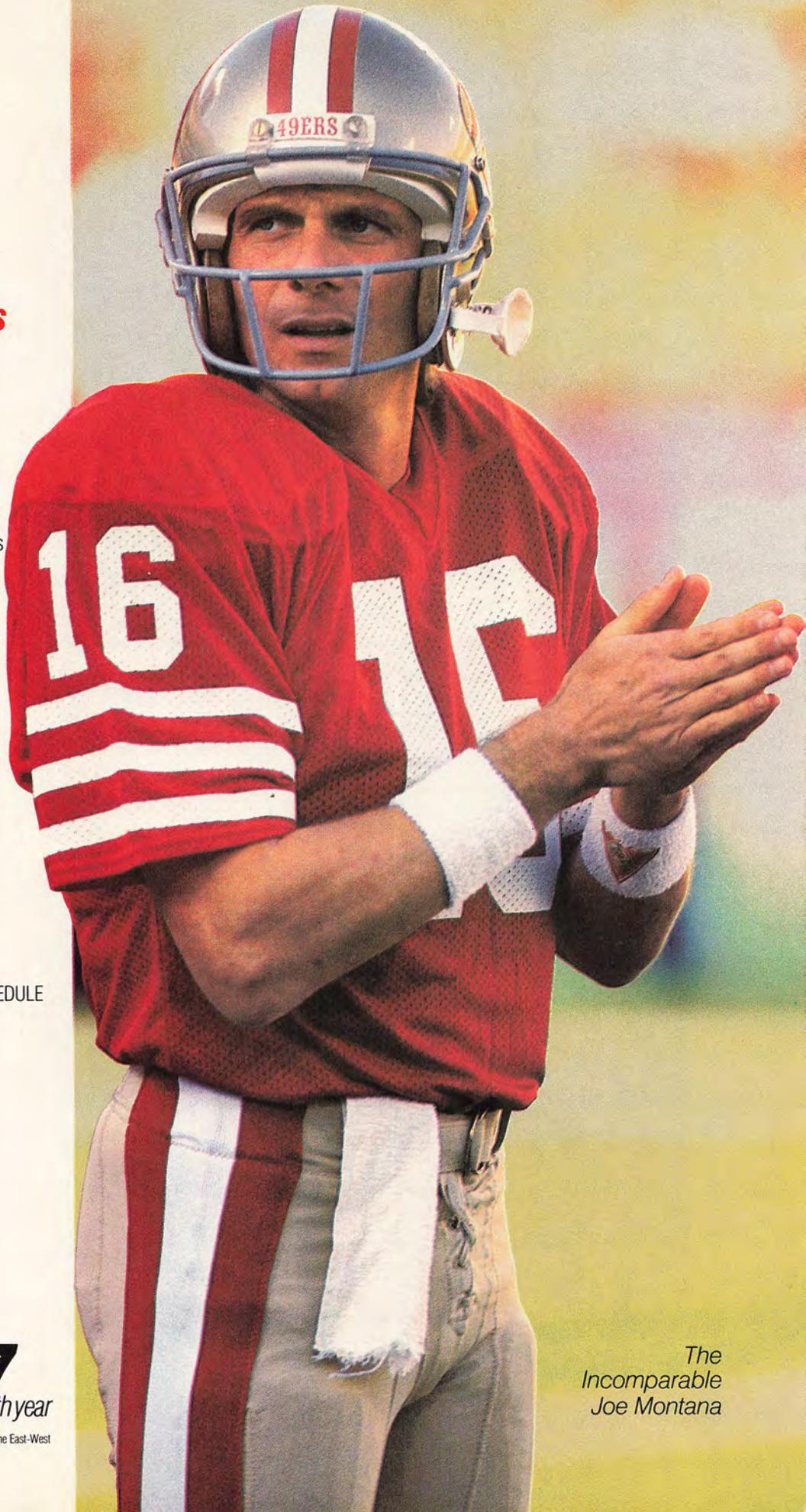
Pro Football

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July 1989 **27**th year

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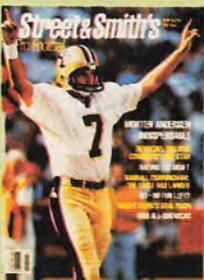
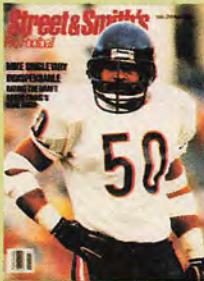
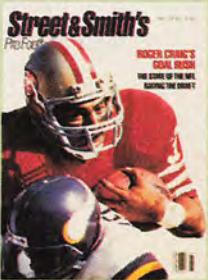
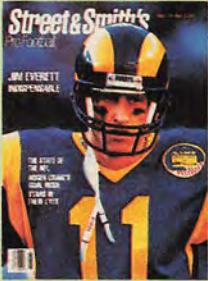


*The
Incomparable
Joe Montana*

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

"How do you choose your covers?" is a question our readers occasionally ask. We like to think the players themselves decide by their performances and that we simply recognize them for their achievements. That is certainly true of the cover subjects for the 1989 Street & Smith's Pro Football: Mike Singletary (Chicago Bears), Roger Craig (San Francisco 49ers), Boomer Esiason (Cincinnati Bengals), Jim Kelly (Buffalo Bills), Jim Everett (Los Angeles Rams), Randall Cunningham (Philadelphia Eagles), Morten Andersen (New Orleans Saints), and Herschel Walker (Dallas Cowboys).

Seven of the eight are appearing for the first time, a distinction Singletary earned in 1986 after Chicago's Super season. Six helped their teams reach postseason play a year ago. Singletary is the consummate middle linebacker and a constant on a team that has seen many of its best players disabled by injury. San Francisco won its third Super Bowl in the decade—and its second over Cincinnati—thanks largely to the efforts by Craig, the Offensive Player of the Year. Esiason, the NFL's top-rated passer, helped the Bengals rebound from a 4-11 record in 1987. Kelly took the Bills to the final four a year ago; with a more wide-open offense he could carry Buffalo a step farther in '89. Everett continues to pay dividends to the Rams, and last season he led the league in touchdown passes and the NFC in completions and passing yardage. Cunningham threw for a club-record 3,808 yards and paced the Eagles in rushing for the second consecutive season. New Orleans and Dallas sat out the playoffs, through no fault of Andersen's and Walker's. The Saints can't kick about Andersen—they can't kick without him—perhaps their most valuable player. The Cowboys' poor showing entitled them to the top selection in the draft, UCLA quarterback Troy Aikman, who can hand off to Walker, the conference's best runner.



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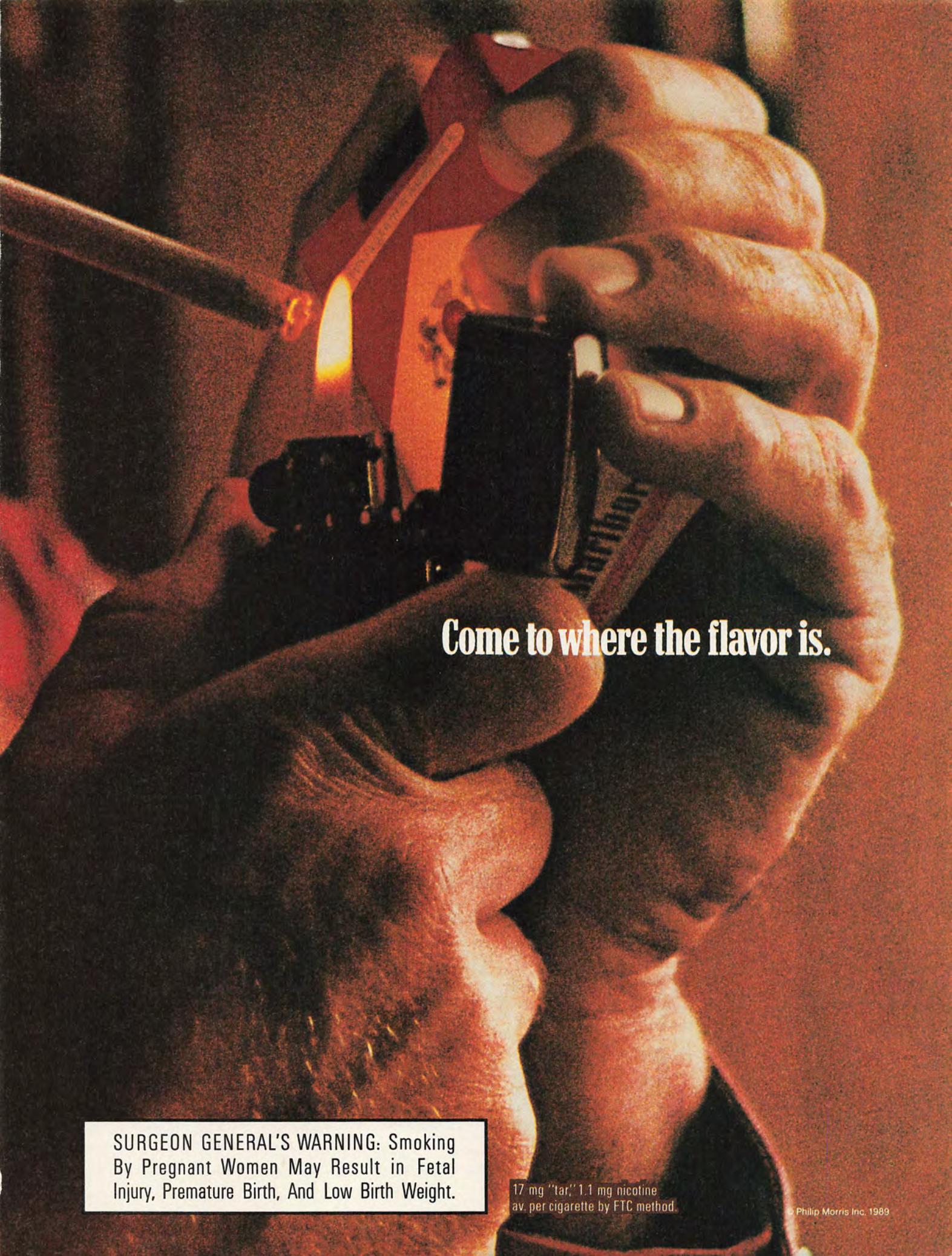
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Letters

■ I would like to comment on Matt Marsom's article, "All-America Check-Up" [Street & Smith's 1989 Pro Basketball]. Mr. Marsom added Chris Mullin's name to a list of players who will fight for a roster spot as opposed to being a star. I suppose Mr. Marsom is eating his words after this season. Mullin, who switched from guard to his natural position of small forward, is making Don Nelson appear to be a genius. Chris averaged over 26 points per game this season. He and Rookie of the Year Mitch Richmond are the primary reasons for the turnaround of Golden State.

I believe too many people fail to emphasize the mental toughness and the desire to win that some athletes possess. Obviously Chris Mullin will not beat you with his jumping ability or his quickness. He plays within his game and he finds ways to win games. He is a player who rises to the occasion.

Obviously Mr. Marsom underestimated Mullin's basketball ability and, more importantly, his drive for excellence. When one measures athletes, do not forget to measure one vital part: the size of the heart. Chris Mullin has an enormous heart.

JOSEPH B. WALLACE
Arlington, VA

■ I'm writing in regard to an error in your 1988 Pro Football issue. You mentioned that Dan Marino hasn't been to the Super Bowl yet. Your records obviously were wrong, because Marino was the first of the '83 quarterback class to reach the Super Bowl in January of 1985 when Miami lost to San Francisco, 38-16.

LEWIS BOOKER
Pittsburgh, PA

■ Thank you for publishing Street & Smith's, my favorite sports magazine. The 1989 Baseball is the best so far, and the best part about that issue is the team statistics. I can't wait until the October issue comes out because it is on College Basketball, and my two favorite teams are Syracuse and Georgetown.

KENDRIC WARD
Shaker Heights, OH

■ I have long enjoyed your publications and have looked forward to starting each spring with Street & Smith's Baseball preview. I have normally regarded the predictions of the various races to be the perspective of a writer who has researched his material and has based his view on solid fact. However, Maury Allen has changed my mind. The sole fact that Maury does not even realize Jody Davis will be the Braves' catcher for '89 (he was traded to the Braves before the end of the '88 season) and Ozzie Virgil was never offered a contract after '88 shows him lacking in preparation. At least he got this move right in the Cubs preview. The Braves may finish last in the National League West, but it would help to know their personnel.

DON FRITZ
Atlanta, GA

P.S. For Mr. Allen's information, the Braves are considered to have the best group of young arms in the game by baseball experts.

■ Since I collect the Street & Smith's College and Pro Football issues, I need to know what year your first issue of Pro Football came out. My first Pro book is 1965, but there may have been earlier issues. I have a complete set of the College issues, from 1940 through 1988. Your books are the most outstanding and prized of my collection.

JOHN H. REINHARD
Kansas City, KS

The first issue of Street & Smith's Pro Football hit the newsstands in 1963 and featured Y.A. Tittle of the New York Giants, Milt Plum of the Detroit Lions, and Roman Gabriel of the Los Angeles Rams on the regional covers. Many thanks for your support.

■ My favorite football magazine is your College Football issue. However, last year I was disappointed that Samford was not included. The Bulldogs will be going into their second season as a Division I-AA team. I hope they will be included in your 1989 edition.

WILLIAM E. SCANLON
Palm Harbor, FL

■ Wish you would have a college baseball issue with some news on high school baseball.

MIKE LIVECHI
Norwalk, CT

■ I just picked up your Baseball 1989 issue and it is excellent. I am thankful for your more than plentiful statistical look at last season and the playoffs. I am also appreciative of the fact that your own writers preview all 26 teams, instead of having a writer from that team's city write his own biased preview. However, your latest Baseball committed a major error on quite simple grounds.

On the cover of the [Midwest] issue I picked up, there are large pictures of Mark Grace and Chris Sabo. They are referred to as "Rookie Stars." There are also the headings "Rebuilt Rangers," "Kirby Puckett," and "Frank White." But, much to my shock, I found no separate articles on Sabo, Grace, or the Rangers. There were small articles on Puckett and White, but there was no sign of the others.

Your misleading cover still irks me. The cover of a magazine is supposed to inform the reader as to what features are contained within. I understand that a magazine of your sort covers all the teams equally. But you still must find a few key lead features on the season. You appear to have simply attempted to come off as a magazine with more features than you can handle! So you can understand my irritation to discover that only two of your four mentioned cover stories actually appeared in your magazine.

DAVID MARCUS
Philadelphia, PA

Misleading? In addition to the statistics, rosters, schedules, postseason recap, and major and minor league reports, Street & Smith's Baseball offered 19 other features, one of which discussed rookie stars Sabo and Grace. The preview of the Texas Rangers was an analysis of their rebuilding project, one which we feel should result in a major improvement—from sixth place to third.

■ I am a student and a football player at Wesley College in Dover, Delaware. I have been reading your College Football magazine for years, and find it to be excellent. My only request is that you write up Division III football.

MARK SHABAKES
Dover, DE

Street & Smith's will offer previews of all 194 Division I schools and of many of the top Division II schools. But lack of space prohibits us from covering Division III football, which includes 213 members in 1989.

■ O.K. I'm baffled. Would you please let me know how quarterback ratings are calculated? Many thanks for taking me out of my misery.

BARRY GLUCK
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The National Football League requires 500 words in its Record & Fact Book to explain its Passer Rating system. The formula is a complex one that involves (1) percentage of completions (2) percentage of touchdown passes (3) percentage of interceptions and (4) average yards gained per attempt.

■ I am writing to ask that you include a short section on the North Central Conference in your college football issue. You included several conferences which rarely have supplied a Division II national championship team. My alma mater, North Dakota State University, is a Division II team from the NCC. In 1988 they were again champions, defeating several Division II teams you had written up: Portland State and Sacramento State of the Western Football Conference and Millersville of the Pennsylvania Conference.

BOB SHEFIELD
Peoria, AZ

■ I thoroughly enjoyed your article on Frank White ["Frank White: Good As Gold"] in the 1989 Street & Smith's Baseball. He has always been an unrecognized gem, and it is nice to see your magazine's awareness of his talent and of the injustice of last year's Gold Glove award. Frank deserves all of our praise for his skills on and off the field.

RYAN WARNER
Prairie Village, KS

■ In the article on free agents ["Dealing With Free Agency"] in your 1989 Baseball, you wrote about the Phillies trades and said that Jeff Parrett may take over Steve Bedrosian's job. That is not true. Bedrock is as strong as ever and the guy who wrote this article doesn't know what he is talking about. And another thing: Mike Schmidt doesn't know what he's talking about either.

CHRIS STEWART
Prospect Park, PA

We can't speak for Mike Schmidt, but Glen Macnow, the author of our piece and a writer for the Philadelphia Inquirer, is well-informed.

Correspondence should be addressed to The Editor, Street & Smith's, 304 East 45 Street, New York, NY 10017

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THE STATE OF THE NFL



by **LARRY FELSER**

BUFFALO NEWS

The National Football League began its final, inevitable sprint toward the great unknown of the 1990s on March 22 in Palm Desert, California. On that day, commissioner Pete Rozelle stunned the league's owners and all of sports by announcing his retirement, "effective immediately." It wasn't the retirement that was so stunning. Most of Rozelle's associates were predicting that. His best friend, ex-Postmaster General Bob Tisch, had even zeroed in on the day: "March 1, 1991, when his current contract runs out and he will have reached 65." The stunning part was "effective immediately." The NFL's problems, mercurial changes, and daily headaches have gotten so painful that even Rozelle, a man known for tireless patience, had his fill. He will ride off

into the San Diego sunset and let the new man dodge what have escalated from bullets into ballistic missiles.

THE NFL TODAY

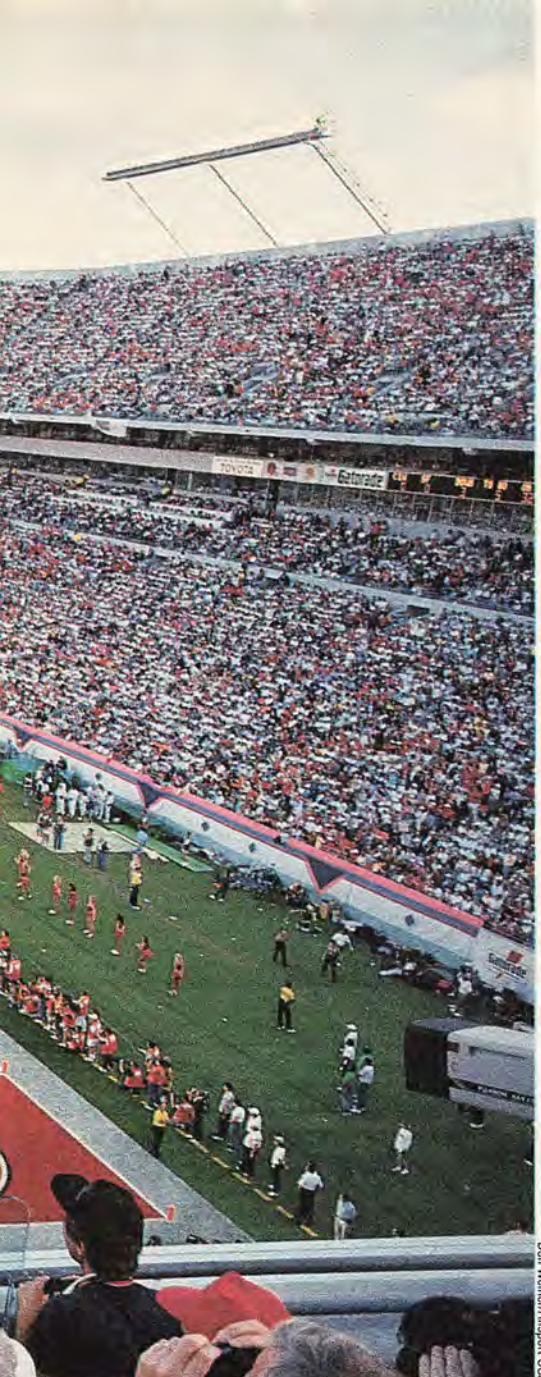
The NFL Rozelle knew best is no more. Today, some franchises are virtual takeover targets. Corporate sharks buy them for high prices, streamline them in some ways and fatten them in others, then try to sell them for even higher prices. The New England Patriots, for instance, are in the hands of electric-razor tycoon Victor Kiam. To him the Pats represent a commodity along the lines of a commuter airline or a fast-food conglomerate, to be disposed of at the proper time for the proprietor financial gain.

The current makeup of the NFL ownership is broken into equal blocs of 14. One bloc is composed of the NFL old guard—owners such as Wellington Mara of the New York Giants, Art Modell of Cleveland, Dan Rooney of

Pittsburgh, and Bill Bidwill of Phoenix—along with the AFL originals, who came into the NFL in the merger of 1970. That latter bunch includes owners such as Leon Hess of the New York Jets, Ralph Wilson of Buffalo, Lamar Hunt of Kansas City, and Bud Adams of Houston. The other bloc of 14 includes the newer owners such as Norman Braman of Philadelphia, Jerry Jones of Dallas, Ken Behring of Seattle, Pat Bowlen of Denver, and Kiam, as well as NFL mavericks, notably Hugh Culverhouse of Tampa Bay and the unpredictable Robert Irsay of Indianapolis. It is the formula for gridlock.

"Even under the direction of a man as persuasive as Pete Rozelle, we have become so polarized that we can't even agree on future Super Bowl sites," said one AFC owner.

What does all this mean to the ordinary football fan? For one thing it means higher prices. A number of NFL teams raised their ticket prices by an average of about \$5 this year.



FREE AGENCY

That is something else the fans will see a lot more of in the '90s: meaningful free agency. The NFL owners are demonstrating that they have no more will power than the baseball owners when it comes to major talent on the free market. The Washington Redskins started it in 1988 when they signed linebacker Wilber Marshall from the Chicago Bears. Marshall couldn't keep the Redskins from slipping out of the playoffs in their post-Super Bowl season, but that won't stop other owners from visualizing a panacea in big-name free agents.

Denver seemed to have little to lose in bidding for Smith. The Broncos had neglected their defense for three or four years and the resulting deterioration dragged them out of the playoffs last season. In Smith, they would have had the possibility of regaining the AFC West championship in one swoop. There is no dominant team in that division and three of its members—Kansas City, San Diego, and Los Angeles—lack quarterback stability. The defending champion, Seattle, is more solid at quarterback with Dave Krieg, but the Seahawks had so much trouble with Smith when they lost to the Bills in the Kingdome in 1988 that they finally had to resort to the illegal chop block to attempt to stop him. Besides, the price for Smith was a relative bargain: two first-round draft choices. Indianapolis voluntarily surrendered that same price to Seattle last year in the trade for linebacker Freddie Young. Bruce Smith is a defender with far more impact than Young.

In the wake of the Broncos' offer to Smith, Denver owner Pat Bowlen was labeled a "hypocrite" by three other owners since, in his role as a member of the NFL finance committee, he had spent the previous week talking his fellow moguls into cost-cutting maneuvers, including an 80-player roster limit in training camp. But Bowlen's worst mistake may have been in not bidding even higher for Smith in order to scare off the Bills. Chicago, with two extra first-round picks it received from Washington in compensation for Marshall, made a similar bid for Houston defensive end Ray Childress. The Oilers matched it.

A more relaxed form of free agency is almost certain in the '90s, especially in view of the "Plan B" players' movement of last winter and spring. "Plan B" was the freezing of rosters at 37, allowing hundreds of marginal NFL players to go on the free market for two months. Any of the players could be signed as free agents between February 1 and April 1 without compensation going to their former teams. Of the 619 players exposed to the free market, more than a third (229) were signed by other teams. Their salaries were higher and the signing bonuses were gravy. "Plan B" began as a way to fulfill a federal judge's mandate to the league as a result of a suit filed by the NFL Players Association. It may have worked well enough to grant a satisfactory form of free agency, at least for pro football grunts. We won't know for sure until the end of this season, and maybe not then, but the movement of some of those marginal players may have delicately changed the balance of power in at least some divisions of the NFL.

The addition of the corporate mentality has meant the subtraction of tradition and sentimentality. The most obvious example came in Dallas, where Tom Landry, the Cowboys' leg-

endary coach, was brusquely pushed out the door after Jones bought the team and hired his ex-college roommate, Jimmy Johnson. Tex Schramm, who, as Dallas's president-GM, had been an NFL power for almost three decades, was shunted to one side in Jones's first public appearance as the owner.

In Miami, coach Don Shula's son left a job as his father's No. 1 assistant to become Johnson's top aide in Dallas. There had been sniping at young Shula when the Dolphins faltered in the last two years, and with a new stadium to fill and notes to be paid off, the Shulas couldn't afford even the appearance of nepotism. By all objective accounts, David Shula is an excellent coach, but the days of a pro football team being something of a family business are over for most franchises.

The demand for season-to-season success and the difficulty in maintaining excellence over even a short stretch of years will take larger tolls in the '90s than it has in the late '80s. The tipoff came after the last Super Bowl when Bill Walsh, still considered an energetic and vigorous coach, resigned, taking a job in the front office and leaving the coaching to defensive chief George Seifert. If the Pittsburgh Steelers were not one of the few remaining paternalistic franchises, Chuck Noll, who enters his 21st season as head coach, may have suffered a fate similar to Landry's.

SPRING LEAGUE

The big breakthrough of the '90s could be the spring league planned by the NFL. It will be international in scope, with teams in Canada, England, Italy, and possibly Scandinavia as well as the U.S. The NFL has been considering the idea for 20 years. The timing seems perfect now. NFL games have been televised in England for years and this season, for the first time, there will be live broadcasts. American football is very popular in the British Isles. Declining interest in the Canadian Football League among the fans in the large population centers, particularly Toronto and Montreal, makes Canada a natural location for the new league. With both NBC and ABC devoid of significant sports telecasts in the spring, the NFL could realize substantial profits from a spring league.

Stocking the rosters in the spring league should be easy. There are always a dozen or so players in the developmental stage on NFL regular rosters. Now that the NFL limits its training-camp rosters to 80 players, an abundance of free agents will be available. Then, too, is the possibility that U.S. college football, sodden with scandals, will clean up its recruiting and eligibility practices. The spring league may turn out to be a development haven for skilled football players who don't belong in a college classroom.

The spring league also may be a chance for the NFL to tidy up an embarrassment of its own: the lack of black coaches and front-office executives. It may be just the opportunity for qualified blacks to prove themselves.

There is also the unspoken argument for a spring league, the most pragmatic rationale of all: to block the formation of another bothersome rival like the now defunct USFL.

There seems to be a price on virtually everything in the NFL of the '90s, and somewhere in the decade could lie the biggest financial bonanza of all: pay-per-view television. □

Ticket prices are so steep now, the NFL is on the cusp of becoming an elitist spectator sport. The days of loading the kids in the station wagon, tailgating in the parking lot, and treating the whole family to the usual concession fare while sitting in seats that were purchased for a small fortune are only for the semi-affluent. The rest of the football fans must watch on TV.

The owners see themselves as prisoners of economics. They feel they have to charge higher prices for tickets in order to repay the loans which were necessary to acquire their teams. Even with the price hikes, some franchises stay about even. Buffalo raised its ticket prices after winning the Eastern Division championship in the AFC last year. Then Denver signed the Bills' star pass rusher, Bruce Smith, to a \$7.5 million free-agent offer sheet. The Bills matched the Broncos' offer, allowing them to keep Smith, but it will cost one third of their ticket revenues to pay him.

RATING THE DRAFT

**The winners and losers:
a team-by-team analysis**

by FRANK LITSKY

NEW YORK TIMES

In the National Football League's 1989 draft, the Chicago Bears and the Cleveland Browns apparently did great, the Dallas Cowboys and the Detroit Lions apparently did almost as well, the Buffalo Bills and the Los Angeles Raiders apparently did little, and the Philadelphia Eagles obviously did little because they had only four picks. "Apparently" is a key word in immediate assessments of drafts. It takes three years before anyone knows if a draft is successful because many players take that long to establish their credentials or lack of them.

But the big story in this draft was not so much who did what. Instead, it was the changing role of the draft as the major way to stock talent. This year, there was another way: the Plan B free-agency system. It came about because the owners and the players were still operating without a collective-bargaining agreement and the owners feared they would lose an imminent court case and be faced with total free agency for players.

So to try to establish good faith with the court, they designed two alternate plans of partial free agency. When the NFL Players Association rejected both, the owners unilaterally invoked Plan B. That plan allowed each team to protect 37 players. All others were

declared unrestricted free agents from February 1 to April 1, meaning that any other team could sign them in that period without compensating the original team.

The 619 players granted this two-month free agency were mostly fringe players, but they did include such starters or one-time heroes as quarterback Gary Hogeboom of the Indianapolis Colts, linebacker E.J. Junior of the Phoenix Cardinals, running back Timmy Smith of the Washington Redskins, nose tackle Bob Golic of the Browns, defensive end Gary Jeter of the Los Angeles Rams, and guard Billy Ard of the New York Giants. In all, 229 players signed with new teams, far more than anyone had expected.

Many teams seized on this opportunity to fill specific needs. Several teams with many weaknesses made it a grab bag, with the Packers signing 20 veteran free agents and the Kansas City Chiefs 17. So when the draft arrived April 23 and 24, some teams had already taken care of problem areas. The Redskins and the Browns were able to trade for specific needs, and there were more big trades than usual. Other teams were able to gamble in the draft for unproven players.

Overall, it was not a strong draft. Though Tony Mandarich of Michigan State was perhaps the best offensive tackle ever to come out of college and Deion Sanders of Florida State was certainly the best cornerback in at least a decade, there were not many other impact players. Here is a team-by-team look at the draft:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ATLANTA Deion Sanders was the best cornerback, the best kick returner, and the fastest man in the draft. He will forget baseball and become all-NFL for the next decade. The Falcons traded three choices to the Bengals for the 27th pick of the first round and took Shawn Collins, a big and fast wide receiver from Northern Arizona with great potential. RB Keith Jones of Illinois (third round) will help replace Gerald Riggs, traded to Washington.

CHICAGO Excellent. Plenty of help is likely from their 20 picks, including eight in the first five rounds. The defense was bolstered with

TONY MANDARICH Michigan State

classy CB Donnell Woolford of Clemson and DE Trace Armstrong of Florida (both first round) and OLB John Roper of Texas A&M (second round). All three should start soon. An aging offensive line added solid help in OT Dave Zawatson of California (second round) and OG Jerry Fontenot of Texas A&M (third round).

DALLAS Jimmy Johnson, the new coach, ran the draft and did well, starting with QB Troy Aikman of UCLA as the first pick overall. Aikman was not the best player in the draft, but rebuilding starts at quarterback and Aikman was the best there, with size and a strong arm. Steve Pelleur should be the starter at the beginning of the season, but not at the end. FB Daryl Johnston of Syracuse (second round) and OG Mark Stepnoski of Pittsburgh (third round) should start before the season ends.

DETROIT Wayne Fontes, in his first full season as head coach, wants a run-and-shoot offense. He drafted the right type of players for that in RB Barry Sanders, the Heisman Trophy winner from Oklahoma State (first round); speedy WR John Ford of Virginia (second round), and QB Rodney Peete of Southern California (sixth round). Peete, the Heisman runner-up, lasted that long because his height and arm strength are less than perfect, but he fits in here because he can throw on the run.

GREEN BAY The 305-pound Mandarich is the best offensive-line prospect since Anthony Munoz and should be a superstar until the year 2000. DE Matt Brock of Oregon (third round) will help the pass rush. Some of those veteran free agents will help, too, but QB Anthony Dilweg of Duke (third round) does not seem to be the answer to the Packers' long-time problem.

LOS ANGELES Impressive. The last dividends of the Eric Dickerson trade left the Rams with two picks in the first round and three in the second. The offense will benefit from FB Cleveland Gary of Miami (first round), a 230-

TIM WORLEY Georgia



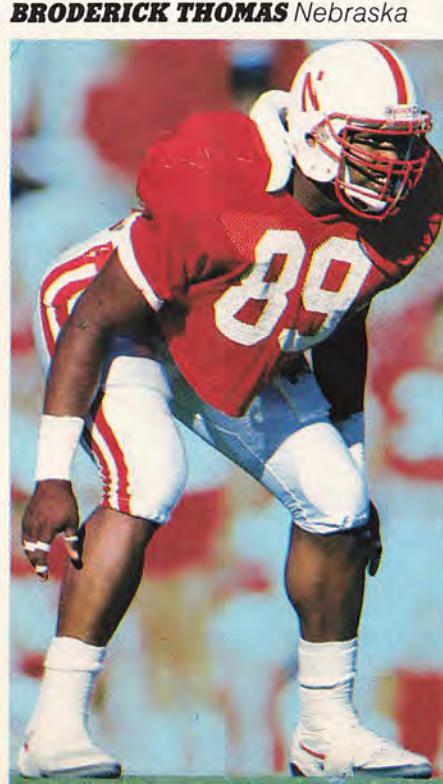
Paul Jasinski



Paul Jasinski



Al Koscia



BRODERICK THOMAS Nebraska

Malcolm W. Emmons

pound blaster and a marvelous receiver. The defense, needing a pass rush to replace Jeter, added three good candidates in DE Bill Hawkins of Miami (first round) and OLBs Frank Stams of Notre Dame and Brian Smith of Auburn (both second round).

MINNESOTA The Vikings traded their first-round choice to the Steelers for OLB Mike Merriweather, who sat out the 1988 season in a contract dispute. After that, the Vikings got little, though OLB David Braxton of Wake Forest (second round) will help the pass rush. OT John Hunter of Brigham Young (third round) is big and slow, and OT Jeff Mickel of Eastern Washington (sixth round) was a reach.

NEW ORLEANS Defense was the priority, starting with DE Wayne Martin of Arkansas (first round), a worthy pass rusher. Coach Jim Mora obviously felt his cornerbacks cost the Saints a playoff berth because he tapped three in Robert Massey of little North Carolina Central (second round), Kim Phillips of North Texas State (third round), and Mike Mayes of Louisiana State (fourth round). None is taller than 5-10.

NEW YORK After taking 600 pounds worth of offensive tackles (Eric Moore and Jumbo Elliott) on the first two rounds of 1988, the Giants drafted more beef on the first two rounds of 1989 in 292-pound OG Brian Williams of Minnesota and 286-pound OG Bob Kratch of Iowa. Both are solid picks. RBs Lewis Tillman of Jackson State (fourth round) and Dave Meggett of Towson (MD) State (fifth round) may brace one soft area.

PHILADELPHIA The Eagles thought so little of the draft depth that they traded seven choices (rounds 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12) to the Bears for a third-round pick. The four players the Eagles did draft (two linebackers and two running backs) should help. Fast benefits should come from OLB Jessie Small of Eastern Kentucky (second round) and HB Robert Drummond of Syracuse (third round).

BARRY SANDERS Oklahoma State



PHOENIX A good all-round draft. Needed linebacking help will come from Eric Hill of Louisiana State (first round), who is built (6-1, 246) for playing inside but could be equally tough outside. A king-sized offensive line got new blood at guard in 280-pound Joe Wolf of Boston College (first round) and 299-pound Max Zandofsky of Washington (third round).

SAN FRANCISCO An ordinary draft by 49ers' standards. ILB Keith DeLong of Tennessee (first round) is an intense, tough hitter, but his small size (225 pounds) and back problems make him a risk. TE John Frank retired just before the draft in favor of medical school, putting the pressure on TE Wesley Walls of Mississippi (second round), who is big but unsophisticated.

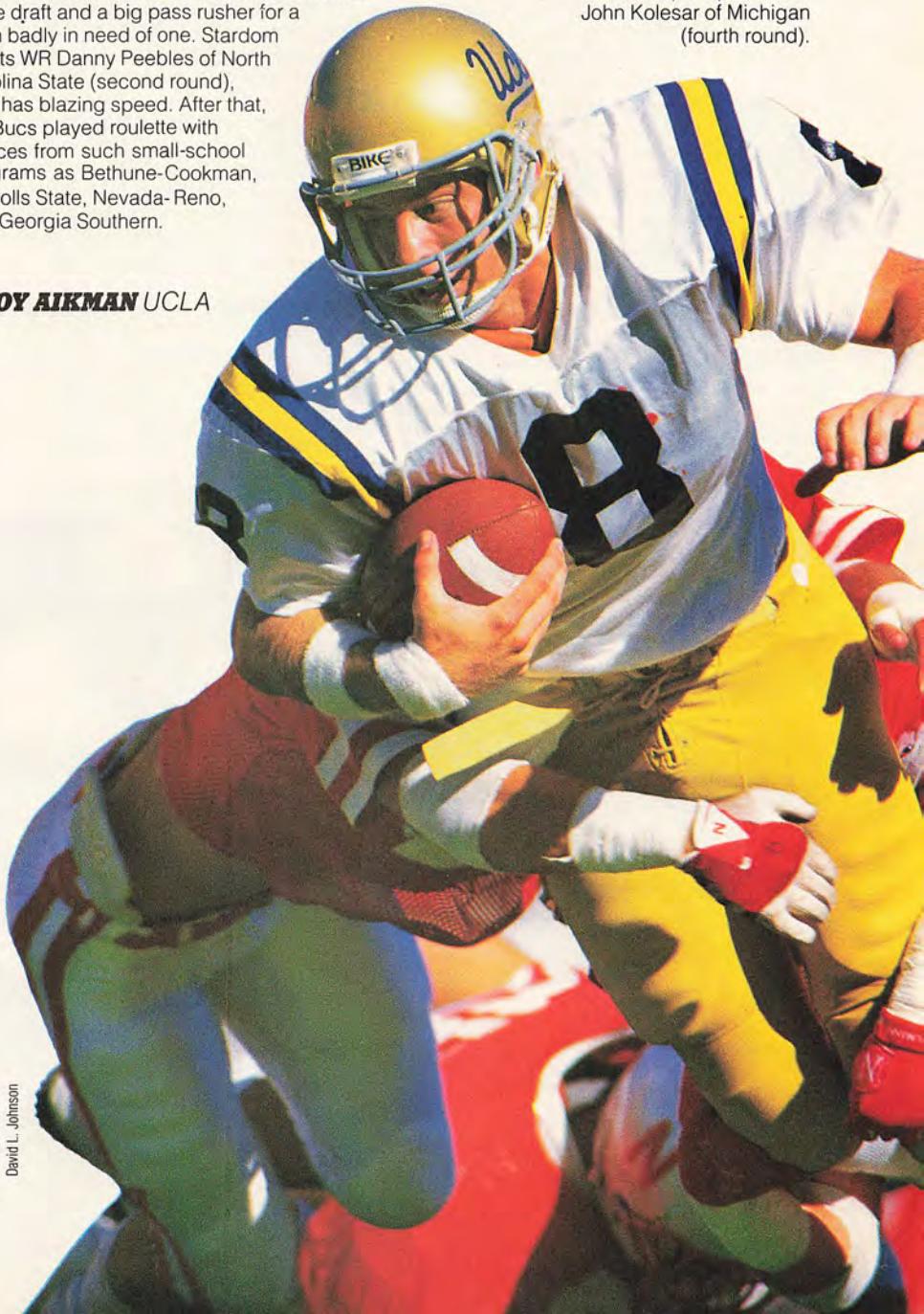
TAMPA BAY No quarrel with OLB Broderick Thomas of Nebraska, the sixth choice overall in the draft and a big pass rusher for a team badly in need of one. Stardom awaits WR Danny Peebles of North Carolina State (second round), who has blazing speed. After that, the Bucs played roulette with choices from such small-school programs as Bethune-Cookman, Nicholls State, Nevada-Reno, and Georgia Southern.

TROY AIKMAN UCLA

WASHINGTON Trades, trades, trades. Since John Riggins retired and George Rogers went downhill, there have been no dependable running backs in this one-back offense. Draft-day trades brought veteran RBs Gerald Riggs from the Falcons as the prospective starter and Earnest Byner from the Browns as the prospective third-down man, and another trade with the Packers allowed the Redskins to draft strong-armed QB Jeff Graham of Long Beach State (fourth round). If DT Tracy Rocker of Auburn (third round) overcomes off-season laziness, he can be a steal.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

BUFFALO No picks on the first or second rounds because of the old trade for OLB Cornelius Bennett, but Bennett is worth anything short of the plague. Help may come from WRs Don Beebe of Chadron State (third round), who has super speed, and John Kolesar of Michigan (fourth round).



David L. Johnson

John Williamson

RATING THE DRAFT

CINCINNATI Who knows how good this draft was? The first pick was traded, and the second, RB Eric Ball of UCLA, has a history of injuries. QB Erik Wilhelm of Oregon State (third round) could become important if Boomer Esiason's shoulder injury recurs. NT Natu Tuatagaloa of California may play sooner than planned if Tim Krumrie is still mending from the broken leg he suffered against San Francisco in the Super Bowl.

CLEVELAND A fine job of revamping as Bud Carson, the new head coach, changed his offense from power to speed. He gave four picks to the Broncos to trade up seven places on the first round and take speedy RB Eric Metcalf of Texas. He gave RB Herman Fenton and three draft choices to the Packers to move up in the second round and take big WR Lawyer Tillman (Auburn), who may eventually succeed Ozzie Newsome at tight end. He gave established RB Earnest Byner to the Redskins for a faster RB in Mike Oliphant. A great draft if the future isn't mortgaged.

DENVER Little-man, finesse-type football doesn't work anymore, so the Broncos beefed up with 286-pound OT Dave Widell of Boston College (second round) and 292-pound OT Darrell Hamilton of North Carolina (third round) on offense and 215-pound SS Steve Atwater of Arkansas (first round) and 277-pound defensive end Warren Powers of Maryland (second round). The approach made sense, and the talent looks good.

HOUSTON This is a set team with few pressing needs, so the draft provided more for the future than for the present. OT David Williams of Florida (first round) will help against the pass rush now. OLB Scott Kozak of Oregon (second round) and SS Bubba McDowell of Miami (third round) are good athletes who will contribute to special teams immediately.

INDIANAPOLIS Andre Rison, considered by many the best wide receiver on the board, lasted until the Colts took him with the 22nd pick of the first round. "The steal of the draft,"

DEION SANDERS Florida State



said coach Ron Meyer of the Colts, who hopes the explosive receiver will take heat off Eric Dickerson and the running game. The defense filled a gap with 295-pound NT Mitchell Benson of Texas Christian (second round).

KANSAS CITY Very good. OLB Derrick Thomas of Alabama, the fourth overall pick, is a blue-chip pass rusher in the mold of Lawrence Taylor, Andre Tippett, and Cornelius Bennett. Another winner may be QB Mike Elkins of Wake Forest (second round), who will learn behind ancients Steve DeBerg and Ron Jaworski. Only Troy Aikman outranked Elkins as a quarterback prospect in this draft.

LOS ANGELES After the Cowboys had taken OG Steve Wisniewski of Penn State on the second round, the Raiders traded their picks in rounds 2, 3, and 5 to get him. He may be worth the price. He had better be. With that and other trades, the Raiders had only five picks, none in the first five rounds. QB Jeff Francis of Tennessee (sixth round) is probably not their quarterback of the future.

MIAMI Before the draft, coach Don Shula said he would be happy to get RB Sammie Smith of Florida State or SS Louis Oliver of Florida. He got both on the first round, Oliver by trading up. Smith can be marvelous one game, uninspired the next, and frequently injured. The 225-pound Oliver is a savage hitter.

NEW ENGLAND A good draft, especially for receivers. With Stanley Morgan aging and Irving Fryar unhappy and often unproductive, a heavy-duty wideout was needed. Enter Hart Lee Dykes of Oklahoma State (first round), a big, possession-type receiver so coveted in the past that he put four colleges on NCAA

DERRICK THOMAS Alabama



probation. Throw in 241-pound TE Marv Cook of Iowa (third round) for short passes and WR Michael Timpson of Penn State (fourth round) for speed.

NEW YORK The Jets provided the biggest shock of the first round when they took 241-pound ILB Jeff Lageman of Virginia with the 14th pick. They plan to use him on the outside because they need a pass rush, but Lageman lacks speed and had only one sack in college. Still, he is intense and, by his own description, nasty. The Jets did not get the speedy receiver they wanted to take pressure off Al Toon.

PITTSBURGH An excellent draft for the offense. The Steelers, without a burly runner since Franco Harris, found one in the first round in Tim Worley of Georgia. OT Tom Ricketts of Pittsburgh (first round) will be a big help if his foot problems disappear. Carnell Lake of UCLA (second round) is a sound safety, but how do the Steelers expect to build him up from 205 pounds to play outside linebacker?

SAN DIEGO Their best deal was not acquiring QB Jim McMahon from the Bears for their first-round choice. Instead, they used that choice to take DE Burt Grossman of Pittsburgh, the best pass rusher in the draft. But they still need a quarterback, though they traded three choices to the Giants for a second-round pick that landed them the strong-armed but unsophisticated QB Billy Joe Tolliver of Texas Tech.

SEATTLE After trying unsuccessfully to trade up for Burt Grossman or Trace Armstrong, they used their first-round pick to take OT Andy Heck of Notre Dame, who seems ready for prime time. C Joe Tofflemire of Arizona (second round) is undersized (6-1 1/4, 261) and a reach. Though murder charges against RB Derrick Fenner of North Carolina (10th round) have been dropped, he still faces other problems with the law. □

TRACY ROCKER Auburn



David L. Johnson

Alan Steele/Allsport USA



It's not whether you win or lose,
it's what you drink after the game that counts.



Al Messerschmidt

Larry Csonka

THE FIRST SHALL BE LAST

They were the teams of the seventies, winning eight Super Bowls. But Pittsburgh, Miami, and Dallas all hit bottom last year.

The end of the 1980s is near. Whether a kinder, gentler fate awaits the NFL's teams of the '70s in the next decade, no one knows. Only one thing is certain: 1988 was a tough year for the Pittsburgh Steelers, Miami Dolphins, and Dallas Cowboys.

Before going into too much detail on last year, first a refresher course is in order. In case you've forgotten, these three teams were the NFL in the 1970s. It was a decade in which they not only thrived but dominated. They won eight of the 10 Super Bowls that climaxed the 1970-79 seasons. Pittsburgh won four and Miami and Dallas two each. The decade's only intruders on their efficiency were the 1970 Baltimore Colts—and try telling a Dallas native that the Cowboys really lost Super Bowl IV—and the 1976 Oakland Raiders.

You want to talk players of the seventies? Start with quarterbacks Terry Bradshaw, Roger Staubach, and Bob Griese—not a bad group of No. 12s. Running backs? How about Franco Harris, Rocky Bleier, Duane Thomas, Tony Dorsett, Larry Csonka, Jim Kiick, and Mercury Morris. Defense? No better tackles than Mean Joe Greene and Bob Lilly ever played the game. Miami had its No-Name Defense, but Jake Scott, the only defensive back ever named Super Bowl MVP, and his partner at safety, Dick Anderson, did their time in a few Pro Bowls.

Classic moments? Bradshaw and Harris teamed up on the Immaculate Reception. Staubach and Drew Pearson hooked up on the Hail Mary in Minnesota. Miami still claims the only unbeaten Super Bowl squad to date.

Now fast forward to the morning of December 21, 1988 and check the final regular-season standings. How can this be?

- Chuck Noll's Steelers—5-11, alone in last place in the AFC Central.
- Don Shula's Dolphins—6-10, alone in last place in the AFC East.
- Tom Landry's Cowboys—good grief, 3-13, alone in last place in the NFC East and right at the bottom of the entire NFL heap.

What a long, strange trip it's been for this trio. As the decade comes to a close, you'll notice that none has been able to add to its Super Bowl trophy case (starting with the 1980 regular season, since Pittsburgh won its fourth on January 20, 1980 at the conclusion of the '79 season). Only Miami has played in a Super Bowl this decade. Pittsburgh hasn't

participated in the playoffs since 1984 while the Cowboys and Dolphins made their last appearances in 1985.

How did all this happen? Steelers' president Dan Rooney points to the obvious. "The whole league system has been geared in the direction of parity," he said. "When you're winning, you get the last choice in the draft, the last choice in waivers and everything else."

Tex Schramm, ex-president of the Cowboys, agreed. "Our system is designed to create movement of the teams. It doesn't guarantee that anybody is going to move up just as it doesn't guarantee that anyone is going to go down, as we showed for 20 years. But the system is designed to create that."

While Shula believes the factors that led to the Dolphins' fall differ from those that tripped up Pittsburgh and Dallas, he does concur on this main point. "These are three examples that the system works," Shula said.

There is some variance in the manner in which each team hit bottom but also in their prospects for returning to the top in the 1990s. A look at each club's situation:

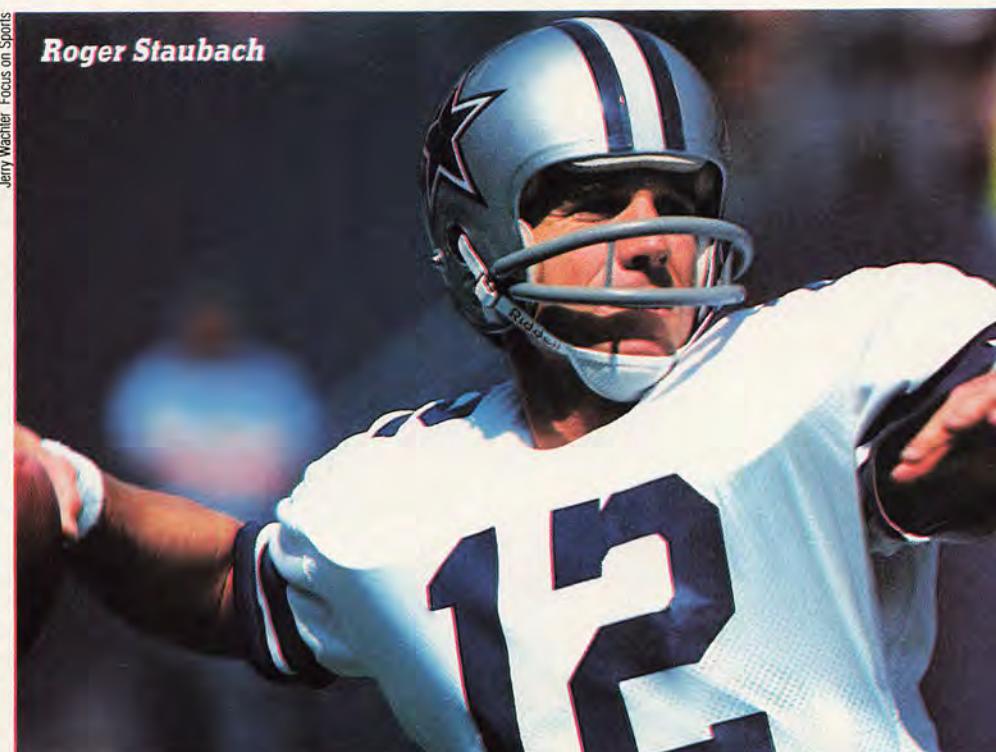
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

The Steelers were the only team in this trio to finish the '88 season on a winning note. Naturally, it came at the expense of the Dolphins, 40-24. "Pittsburgh just cleaned our clock in that second half," Shula said.

But winning three of their last four games hardly made for an acceptable season in the Steel City. The 5-11 record was the Steelers' worst under Noll since 1969. The once proud defense ranked last in the NFL as opponents cranked out an average of 363 yards per game. The season-long holdout of linebacker Mike Merriweather, the club's 1987 MVP, had something to do with that. And the fact that linebacker David Little and cornerback Rod Woodson shared the team's MVP honor in '88 can only mean that the offense, even if it didn't rank last, provided little to shout about. Offensive tackle Tunch Ilkin was the club's only Pro Bowl pick.

"The most disturbing thing about [1988] is that the year before we had really shown improvement," Rooney said. "We were 8-7 and it looked like we were going to be O.K. Then to

Roger Staubach



Jerry Nachter Focus on Sports

by **TIM COWLISHAW**

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

come back and only win five games was a real disappointment. We won three of our four pre-season games, then beat Dallas in the opener. We lost to the Redskins with 12 seconds to go, so it still looked like we were on the right track. But that started a six-game losing streak, and we never recovered."

That streak was twice as long as any that the Steelers endured during the seventies. Where did things go wrong?

"You become a victim of your own success," said Rooney. "For example, Dwaine Board [fifth-round pick, 1979] went off to start for the 49ers and had some great years after we let him go. We kept Dwight White, who, it turned out, was not a regular for us that year. But we won the Super Bowl! So would we do it over again? Sure."

"You want to keep the guys who've been good to you through the years [yet] it's difficult for young guys to come in and be leaders when you have a Jack Lambert or a Terry Bradshaw in the locker room. There's a combination of factors at work."

It was Bradshaw, in his capacity as a broadcaster last year, who suggested perhaps it was time for Noll to step aside. That didn't happen, although the time-honored last resort before making a head-coaching change—shuffling assistants in and out—did take place. Defensive coordinator Tony Dungy resigned while three other assistants were not asked to return.

Rooney admits that a few new teachers aren't the answer. "What we really need is a pass rush. We have readily admitted that we need some more players," he said. "But the Cincinnati Bengals give us all hope. They went from 4-12 to the Super Bowl. That showed you can turn it around more quickly than you could in the past."

Quarterback Bubby Brister provides hope. His 3,634 yards passing were the most by a Steeler since Bradshaw's '81 total (3,887). "He has the physical tools," Rooney said, "but enthusiasm is the biggest thing he brings us."

As Brister moves toward maturity in his fourth season, he will have to adjust to a new center. After 15 years and 220 games, Mike Webster finally called it quits. The last link to all four of Pittsburgh's Super Bowls, Webster arrived in the '74 draft, which also brought receivers Lynn Swann and John Stallworth plus Lambert. When the '89 season opens, Webster, like the glory days, will be only a memory. Until the Steelers reproduce the '74 draft that brought him aboard, the return to glory will have to wait.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

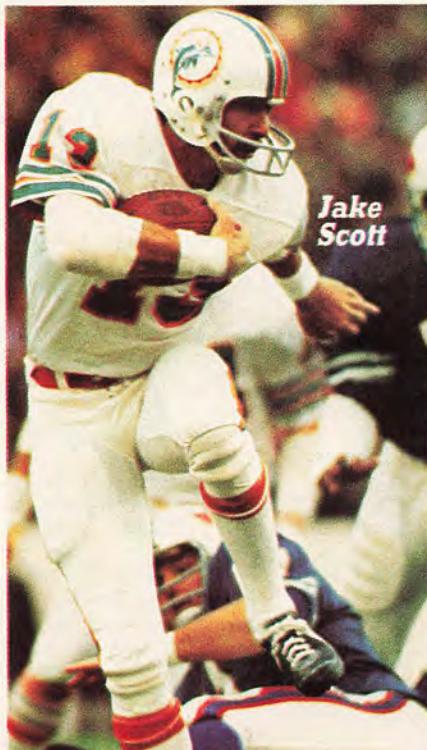
When Shula met Schramm at the winter meetings in Palm Spring, they drank a toast—to the fifth-place schedule each will play in 1989. "It was a very strange toast," admitted Shula. "We've been on the Rules Committee for years and people were always saying, 'You're

the haves, and you don't care anything about the have-nots.' Now we're looking at it from a new angle. We are the have-nots."

The Dolphins have not had a running game in the decade. Last year they ranked first in passing (282 yards per game) and last in rushing (75 ypg). As long as they have Dan Marino, they'll rank near the top of the former. Until they get some quality backs, they'll be near the bottom in the latter.

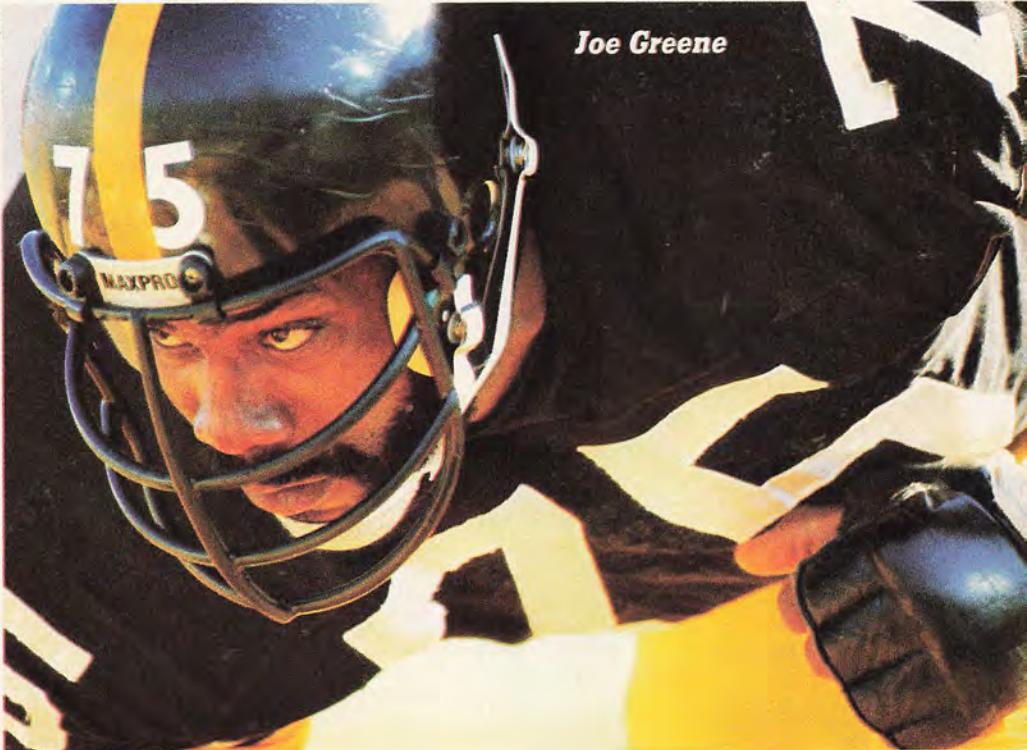
The Dolphins thought they had found the answer in Troy Stradford, who burst on the scene (against Dallas) with a 169-yard rushing game in 1987. "I felt pretty good about him going in, but he had a tough second year," Shula said. In 1988, Stradford topped out with a 48-yard rushing performance against Buffalo in the season's second week. Lorenzo Hampton led the club with 414 yards. No Dolphin rushed for 100 yards last year. "We could really use a back like Ickey Woods, who took the pressure off Boomer [Esiason] to provide all the offense," Shula said. "I don't see any more Ickey Woods out there, though."

Backs weren't the Dolphins' only problem on offense. Dwight Stephenson, arguably the best center of all time, hasn't played since late in 1987, when he suffered serious knee ligament damage, a stretched peroneal nerve, and a fractured tibia in a game against the Jets. "I've been around a few, but that's the most devastating injury I've ever seen," Shula said. "He still has a brace, just to walk."



Focus on Sports

Jake Scott



Joe Greene

THE FIRST SHALL BE LAST

Encouragement in '88 came from tight end Ferrell Edmunds (33 catches, 575 yards). But wide receiver Mark Duper was suspended late in the year after failing a drug test and the fallout from that lasted into the off season. "Something like that is always tough to deal with," Shula said.

Defensively, the Dolphins never got their act together, but then that's been their history lately. "We lost our first game badly to the Bears (34-7), started to play better on both sides of the ball, but ended up not being able to stop anybody," Shula said. "We need help in a lot of areas, but maybe we'll get some from the new free-agent plan. We got [ex-Phoenix linebacker] E. J. Junior. A couple more like that and a good draft would help."

"In our case, some injuries through the years really weakened our defense. Both Bob Baumhower and A. J. Duhe were lost before their playing time should have been over. The alarming thing to me is that two years ago we were 2-6 in our division and last year we were 0-8. And these are the teams we're going to have to beat to get anywhere. Our division has really strengthened itself."

How will the Dolphins reload? Shula said he doesn't expect the last-place schedule which has them playing Kansas City twice, Dallas, and Green Bay to help. "The only important thing is when you play a team. You might catch a good team when it's not playing well

and then catch a weaker team playing its best football of the season. I've never believed that the schedule is going to help you win."

"It's tough going through a year like this last one. It took all of the enjoyment out of coaching. Last year was a tougher one for me than the other 25 combined. I want to get back to enjoying the things I do. You can always bounce back. The good times that you had carry you, and they make you believe that the good times can come around again."

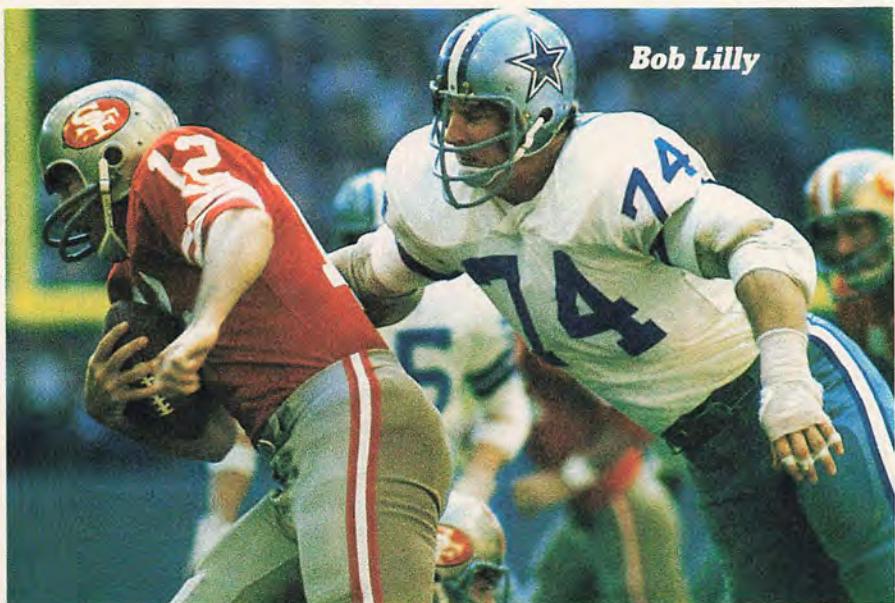
DALLAS COWBOYS

Those who thought they had witnessed the impossible when the Steelers, Dolphins, and Cowboys all finished last were wrong. That

Sweeney was given his first start at quarterback, replacing Steve Pelluer. By season's end, though, the job was back in Pelluer's hands. Sweeney left in the offseason to try to make a fresh start with the 49ers, and it won't be long before No. 1 pick Troy Aikman of UCLA takes over. "I'm very excited about it," Aikman said. "It's a good situation for me."

Still, it's not so great elsewhere on the club. The Cowboys are in need of new life on the defensive line, at linebacker, in the secondary, and at tight end, where veteran Doug Cosbie left a void by signing with Denver.

Why do the Cowboys have these needs? Take a look at their drafts in recent years. "We had three No. 1 picks go down with career-



Bob Lilly

was merely the improbable. The impossible came on February 25 when Tom Landry, the only head coach in the Cowboys' 29-year history, was notified that he was through. An ownership change brought the end to the Landry era just two months after the Cowboys had sunk to the bottom of the league.

The message was clear: if it could happen to Landry, who took the Cowboys to five Super Bowls in a nine-year period, it could happen to anybody, anywhere. Why it happened had a lot to do with new owner Jerry Jones's long-standing relationship with Jimmy Johnson, dating back to their days as roommates at the University of Arkansas. But what it was really all about was losing. If the Cowboys hadn't dropped so far, then their fans wouldn't have deserted them and maybe Bum Bright wouldn't have been so eager to sell the club.

Schramm remained for a time, but even before he resigned in April, he admitted that things would never be the same for the Dallas Cowboys. Talking about the Landry era, he said, "That's over."

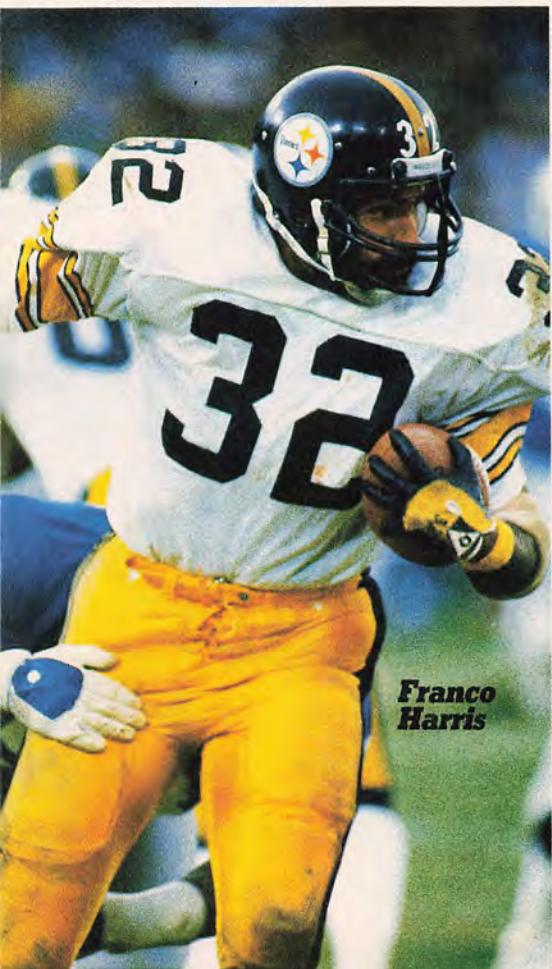
After beating Phoenix and Atlanta early in 1988, Dallas went 10 games without a victory. Frustration turned to embarrassment when the Minnesota Vikings came to Texas Stadium and whipped the Cowboys, 43-3, on national TV. Ironically, that game marked a high point for enthusiasm in Dallas as the popular Kevin

ending injuries: Robert Shaw, Billy Cannon, and Mike Sherrard [now attempting a comeback with San Francisco]. The killer was Sherrard, because he looked like he was on his way to all-pro as a rookie. Then we had some gambles that didn't pay off," Schramm said. "Like Rod Hill and Larry Bethea. When you're always drafting at the end of a round, you let yourself fall into a gambling habit, trying to find the great athletes instead of the good football players. You take chances, and if those flop on you, you're in trouble."

The Cowboys have probably had more flops than any team in the league the last 10 years. But that's the past. Whatever their record, the Cowboys will have a new look in 1989. Placid Tom Landry has been replaced by Miami's excitable Jimmy Johnson.

Perhaps it's not so much Xs and Os the Cowboys need as it is the right break at the right time—the kind of thing Staubach used to provide as though it were simply part of his job. "When we went to the playoffs 18 times in 19 years, maybe there was a little luck involved that we didn't recognize at the time," said Schramm. "Maybe that luck has been balancing out the last few years."

Maybe the Cowboys, the Dolphins, and the Steelers will make all the right moves again. Maybe they will become the teams of the nineties. The teams of 1988 they weren't. □



Franco Harris

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ROGER CRAIG'S GOAL RUSH

by DWIGHT CHAPIN

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

Roger Craig is a man in a hurry, and he knows exactly where he wants to go.

"The football Hall of Fame," he says. "It's going to take some more playing, I know that, but I think that's the goal every player should set for himself. I've made the all-pro team and been in two Super Bowls. My ultimate goal is to get into the Hall of Fame."

It's unusual for any athlete—particularly one who just turned 29—to talk about making a Hall of Fame, but this is an uncommon athlete, on a lot of levels. In six years with the San Francisco 49ers, Craig has rushed for 5,571 regular-season yards and caught 434 passes for 3,768 more. In 1985, he became the only player in National Football League history to surpass 1,000 yards rushing and 1,000 yards receiving in a season. In 1988, when his totals were 1,502 yards running and 534 receiving, he was the NFL's Offensive Player of the Year.

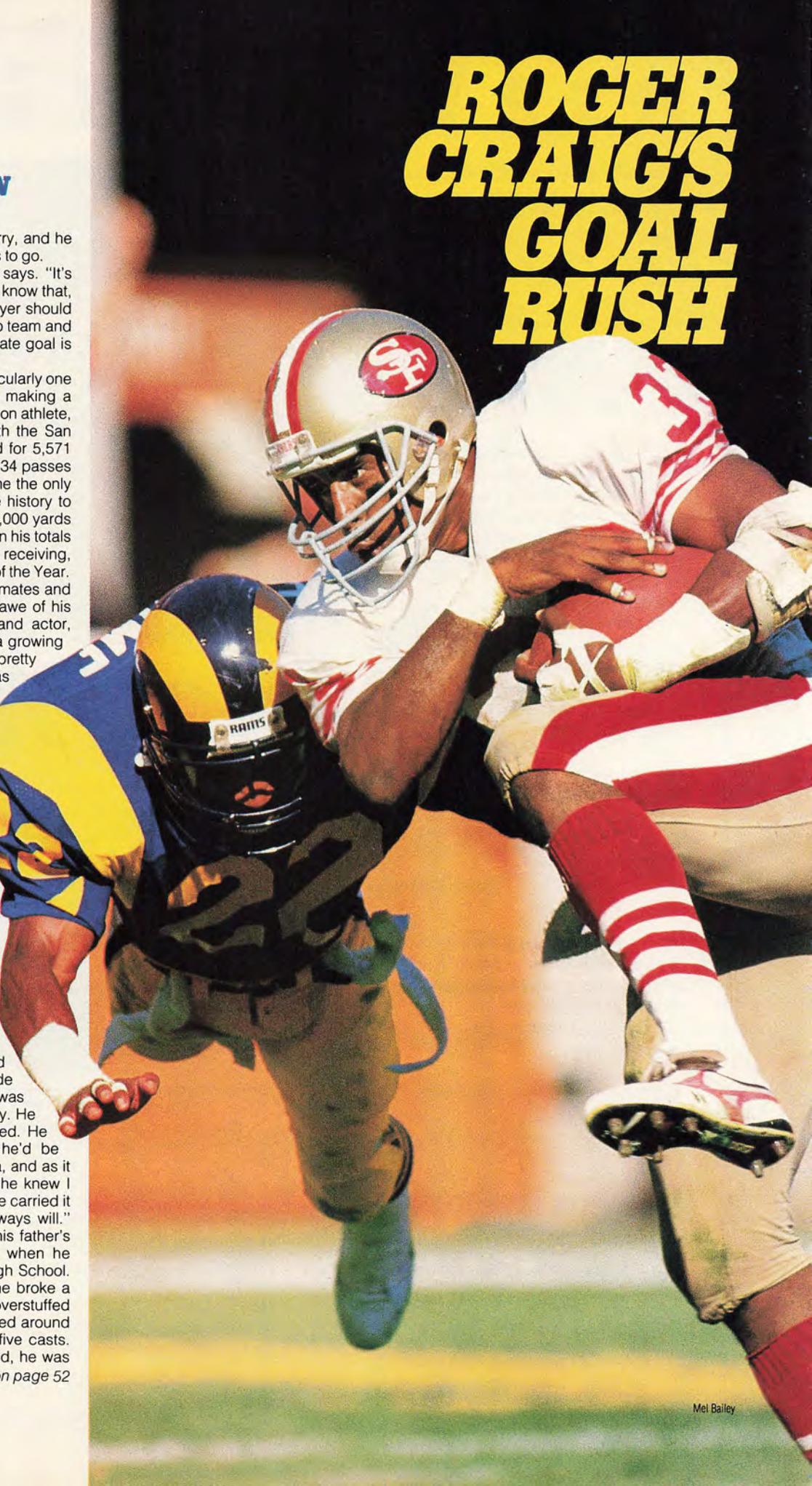
He's also a favorite of 49er teammates and opponents (many of whom are in awe of his talents), a budding broadcaster and actor, and an advertising pitchman with a growing portfolio of satisfied clients. It's all pretty heady stuff for a man once known as nothing much more than Mike Rozier's blocking back at the University of Nebraska. But everything seems to fit, easily, without a lot of misplaced ego getting in the way.

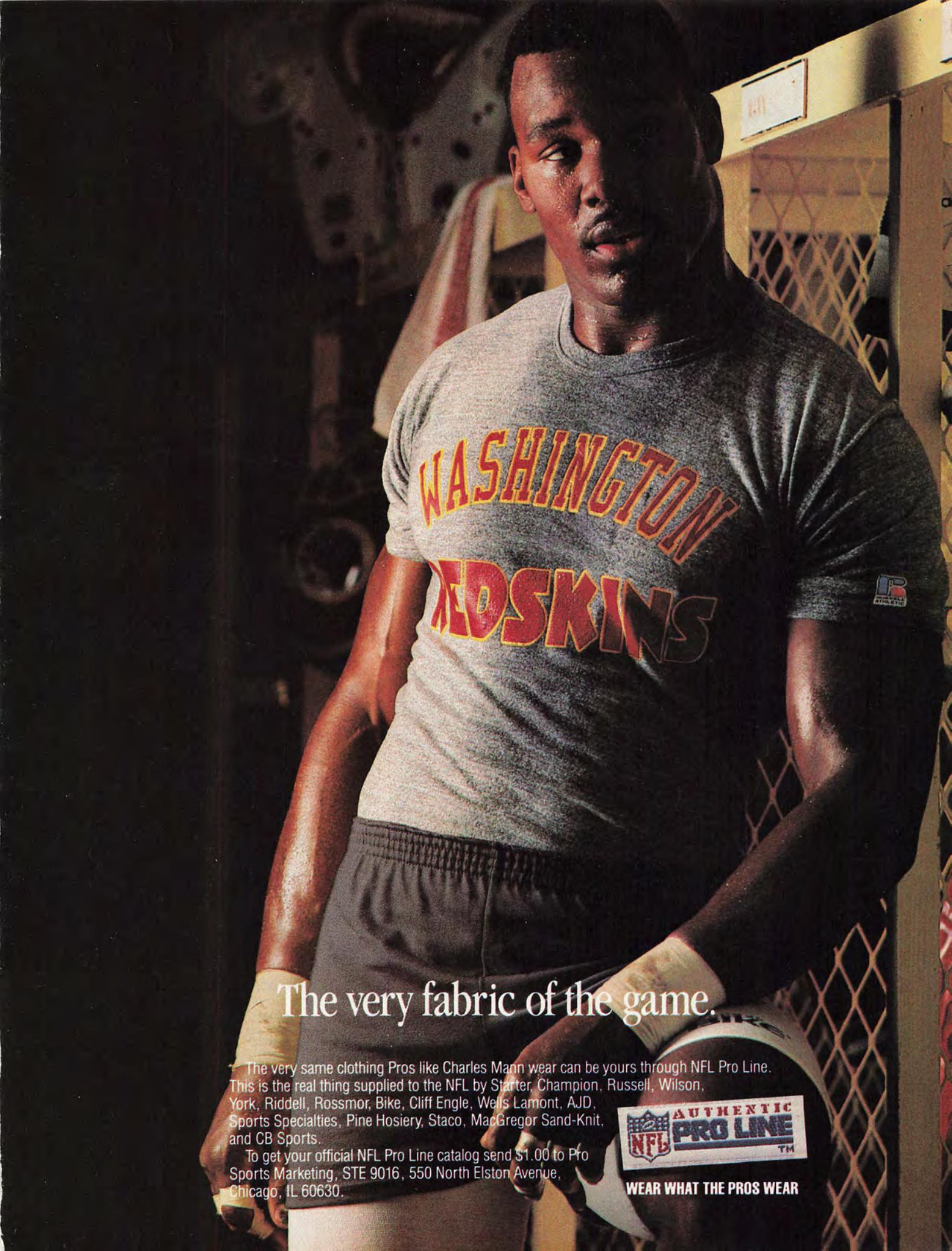
Craig is about as directed a guy as you're likely to find, in or out of a football uniform. He grew up in Davenport, Iowa, the third of seven children in a family that struggled to get by. His father, Elijah, was a mechanic; his mother, Ernestine, worked nights as a machine operator and then hurried home to get the kids off to school.

"Both my parents were always hard workers," Craig said, "and I think they instilled that in me. My dad, who died of lung cancer in 1979, when he was only 45, would do whatever he had to do to provide for us. When the doctor told him he was too sick to work, he worked anyway. He really left a mark on me to succeed. He told my mom he didn't know if he'd be around to see me play at Nebraska, and as it turned out he wasn't, but he said he knew I would do well. That touched me. I've carried it with me ever since. I probably always will."

Craig began applying some of his father's nose-to-the-grindstone principles when he was still at Davenport's Central High School. The first game of his junior year, he broke a leg. But rather than just sit in an overstuffed chair and watch television, he moved around so much he went through four or five casts. And when he wasn't moving around, he was

continued on page 52





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WEAR WHAT THE PROS WEAR

STARS IN THEIR EYES

HERSCHEL WALKER

Some of the game's top players have never experienced the thrill of a Super Bowl.

by RICK GOSSELIN

KANSAS CITY STAR

John Elway was adamant. He was not going to sign with the Baltimore Colts. He would give up football rather than play for the winless Colts. He would play professional baseball instead. Don't draft me, he warned the 0-8-1 Colts. But they didn't listen. The Colts made the Stanford All-America the first overall selection of the 1983 National Football League draft. They called his bluff...only to find he wasn't bluffing.

"I remember Jack Elway saying the reason they didn't want John to go to Baltimore and demanded that he be traded was because they didn't want him to be an Archie Manning," chuckled Manning, six years later. "I got a kick out of that."

Manning himself entered the NFL as a quarterback of promise in 1971, only to leave the game 14 years later as a symbol of despair. Someone John Elway did not want to become. The Ernie Banks of the NFL. Not only did Manning not play in a single playoff game in his 14-year career, he never played on a team that posted a winning record.

"When you're playing, you always have that sanguine feeling that it's going to happen before you get through—and when it does, it'll all be worth it," said Manning of his career-long postseason aspirations. "I probably would have appreciated it even more than the Grieses and Staubachs who were going almost every year. But when you're through and you realize you never did get in a playoff game, you kind of feel you missed something. It's like taking a trip and not seeing everything you wanted to see."

Elway never did play for the Colts. He was traded that spring to Denver, where he has been able to escape a Manning-like fate. Elway has appeared in two Super Bowls in his six seasons with the Broncos. But few football players have the leverage of an Elway or a Bo



Bryan Yablonsky

Jackson. Elway had been the top draft pick of the New York Yankees in 1981 and hit .318 in A-ball in 1982. So baseball was a career alternative. Jackson was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in baseball and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in football in 1986. Rather than play for the 2-14 Bucs, who had made him the first pick of the NFL draft, Jackson signed with the Royals and spent the summer playing Double-A ball in Memphis. The next year he was drafted and signed by the Los Angeles Raiders and is now a two-sport star on teams with histories of success.

LOMAS BROWN, Detroit Lions

Lomas Brown didn't have baseball for leverage. Neither did Barry Kraus or Walter Payton. Brown was the sixth overall choice of the 4-11-1 Detroit Lions in 1985. He has started every game of his four-year career and has yet to play on a winning team. Krauss was the sixth overall choice of the 1979 draft by the 5-11 Colts. But he played eight seasons before the Colts finally posted a winning record in 1987. Payton was the fourth overall choice in 1975 by the 4-10 Chicago Bears. He played on only two winning teams in his first nine years. But in

his 10th season the Bears reached the NFC championship game, and in his 11th season they won the Super Bowl.

HERSHEL WALKER, Dallas Cowboys

Herschel Walker had the USFL for leverage. After winning the 1982 Heisman Trophy, he passed up his senior year at the University of Georgia to sign with the New Jersey Generals. Dallas selected him in the fifth round of the 1985 NFL draft, and when the USFL folded, Walker joined the Cowboys.

"Herschel is like having the first choice in the draft, and we haven't had that type of choice since the mid 1970s, when we got Ed Jones, Randy White, and Tony Dorsett and built a team around them," said coach Tom Landry at the time. They haven't had that type of choice—or, rather, that type of player—since Herschel, and that's been the problem for Dallas, which had the top pick this year.

Walker played fullback, tailback, and receiver in '86, his first season with the Cowboys, ran for 737 yards and set a team record with 76 catches for 838 yards. A year later, he led Dallas in rushing and receiving. Walker was the lone star last season. He was second in the league and first in the NFC in rushing with 1,514 yards and was one behind Ray Alexander for the club lead in receiving again (53 for 505 yards).

GERALD RIGGS, Washington Redskins

In the last five years, few NFL running backs have forged the numbers that Gerald Riggs has for the Falcons. Only one, in fact—Eric Dickerson. Riggs has rushed for 5,895 yards. He has had 24 100-yard games, three 1,000-yard seasons, and three Pro Bowl selections. But the losses have mounted as readily as his yards. The Falcons have dropped 70 percent of their games since Riggs stepped into the starting lineup in 1984, going 23-55-1. But a trade that sent him to Washington could end years of frustration for Riggs.

J.T. SMITH, Phoenix Cardinals

J.T. Smith played his 11th season in 1988. He has distinguished himself on two teams at two positions, going to the Pro Bowl as a kick returner for the Kansas City Chiefs in 1980 and as a wide receiver for the Phoenix Cardinals in 1988. But those honors stand out like a couple of cacti in the desert. Smith has played on just one winning team in his 11 seasons and has never been in a playoff game.

"It crosses my mind every year," Smith said. "You look at some of the young guys coming in and getting a Super Bowl ring their first year—and here you've been working so hard for the longest time and you can't even get to the playoffs. That's what's frustrating."

Smith did have a chance to pick up a Super Bowl ring. After he was waived by the Chiefs in 1985, he talked with the Miami Dolphins and the Bears as well as the Cardinals. The Dolphins were coming off a Super Bowl season and the Bears were on the verge of one. But he chose the Cardinals.

"I made the decision," Smith said. "I went to the team that I thought needed me and I could play right away. That's a little more important to me than being in the Super Bowl and not playing, just sitting on the bench. I didn't think they [Dolphins or Bears] needed me. I'd rather be on a loser and play."

Smith has caught more passes (254) than

any player in the NFL over the last three seasons. But with the Cardinals posting records of 4-11-1, 7-8, and 7-9 those years, few seemed to notice his achievement. Smith did not finish higher than fifth in the Pro Bowl balloting in any of those three seasons—and only the top four vote-getters receive those all-expenses-paid trips to Hawaii. Smith did slip into the Pro Bowl last January when he was added as an injury replacement. But that's the nature of the Pro Bowl beast. The players on winning teams get most of the rewards.

KEN RUETTGERS & TIM HARRIS, Green Bay Packers

"When a team is winning, people look harder to find out the reasons why," said Ken Ruettgers, an offensive tackle for the Green Bay Packers. Ruettgers was a No. 1 pick of the Packers out of Southern Cal in 1985 and has been a starter since his rookie season. In 1987, he was selected Green Bay's offensive player of the year—the first lineman so honored since Ken Bowman in 1971. But the Packers have not posted a winning season since his arrival. So while his former Southern Cal linemates Roy Foster (Dolphins), Don Mo-

He was 20-of-21 in his field-goal attempts, a 95.2 rate that tied the NFL record held by Mark Moseley. His lone miss was a 52-yarder that sailed wide. He was 22-of-23 in his extra-point attempts. But Murray was passed over in the Pro Bowl balloting in favor of incumbent Morten Andersen of New Orleans.

Murray knows the voting had more to do with his team's record than his statistics. He learned that in his rookie season in 1980, when he scored an NFC-leading 116 points for the 9-7 Lions and was selected for the Pro Bowl. The following season, he and Rafael Septien of the Dallas Cowboys tied for the NFL scoring lead with 121 points. But Septien was kicking for the 12-4 Cowboys and Murray for the 8-8 Lions. So Septien was in as the Pro Bowl kicker and Murray was out.

Murray expected to be passed over in 1988 in favor of Mike Cofer, Mike Lansford, or Andersen—even though Cofer had missed 11 field-goal attempts, Andersen 10, and Lansford eight plus three extra points. All three players topped 100 points on NFC West teams that finished 10-6. Murray scored only 82 points on a 4-12 Detroit team.

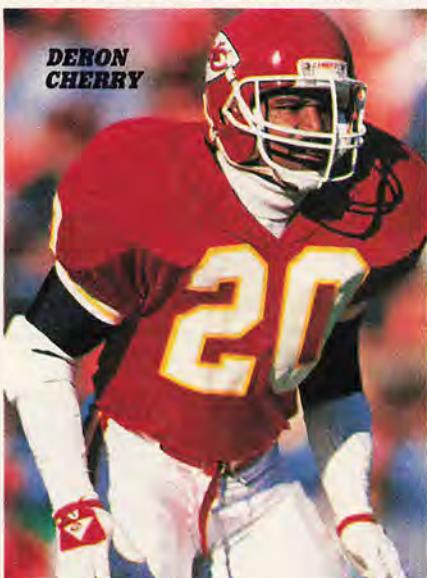
"You need to score a lot of points to be recognized," Murray said. "My percentages might have been high, but I wasn't in the top five to eight scorers in the NFC. If I had been on a mediocre team, a .500 team, I probably would have had another eight or nine more chances with field goals and maybe another 20 more chances with extra points. God knows what I would have done then. But we were a poor team."

In his nine seasons, Murray has established himself as Detroit's all-time-leading scorer, with 847 points, and he needs only 50 points this season to move into the NFL's all-time top 20. But the Lions have had only one winning season since 1981, and Murray has not been back to the Pro Bowl since his rookie year.

NICK LOWERY, Kansas City Chiefs

Nick Lowery of the Chiefs is another place-kicker with numbers that would excite an accountant. He ranks 18th on the all-time scoring list (907 points) and shares the NFL record for most career 50-yard field goals (17). He is the second-most accurate field-goal (77.9 percent) and extra-point kicker (99.3 percent) in NFL history. He has topped 100 points in

continued on page 29



sebar (Raiders), and Bruce Matthews (Oilers) all have gone to playoffs and Pro Bowls. Ruettgers has gone home each January.

"I don't think any offensive lineman is going to stand out like, say, a guy who makes an interception and runs it back for a touchdown," Ruettgers said. "If you're a defensive end leading the league in sacks, even if you're on the worst team, you're going to get some recognition. But on the offensive line, you have to be a good player and your team has to win because there are no statistics."

But even statistics provide no guarantee. Outside linebacker Tim Harris led the Packers last season with 97 tackles, finished fifth in the NFL with 13½ sacks, blocked a punt and returned it for a touchdown, and also registered two safeties. He did everything a linebacker could possibly do... except make a Pro Bowl.

EDDIE MURRAY, Detroit Lions

Detroit's Eddie Murray was the most efficient place-kicker in the NFL in 1988. His team sent him out to kick for points 44 times, and he put the ball through the uprights 42 of those times.



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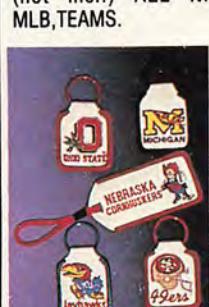
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THIS EAGLE HAS LANDED



Randall Cunningham left defenders in a fog until a playoff loss in Chicago ended his record year.

by GLEN MACNOW

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

The site was a Philadelphia youth detention center packed with teen-age boys who had become too tough too soon. Randall Cunningham, who appears barely out of his teen years himself, was holding court—telling the kids about battling Bears in the fog, about shooting down Cowboys in the sun, about a certain run-in he had with Carl Banks one Monday night. The kids—members of street gangs, a few drug dealers—were giggling like, well, kids. In the back of the room, however, one 15-year-old who apparently spent hours perfecting his sneer, was clearly unimpressed. He fixed an angry stare on Cunningham and mimicked the Pro Bowl quarterback under his breath.

Cunningham stopped his story and slowly walked up to his heckler. "Life is not about being cool," said Cunningham, who is, incidentally, extremely cool. "Life is about being successful. Life is about having people respect you." The room grew silent. Then Cunningham reached out and hugged the stunned kid.

"Hey, man," whispered the now awed tough guy. "You're all-right."

Randall Cunningham is more than all-right. Indeed, in Philadelphia—the notoriously tough town that has booed everyone from Santa to Schmidt—he rates below just Ben Franklin and soft pretzels in the local deification rankings. With Dr. J retired, Mike Schmidt on his way out, and Charles Barkley not quite there yet, Cunningham has become the No. 1 object of brotherly love in this sports-crazed city. "I think he will be to Philadelphia what Julius Erving was," said Philly Mayor Wilson Goode. "I think he will become a folk hero."

And why not? In his two seasons as starting quarterback of the Philadelphia Eagles, he has revitalized a franchise that had suffered through six straight losing seasons.

In 1988, Cunningham almost single-handedly (apologies to Reggie White) pushed the Eagles to the NFC East title. He threw for a club-record 3,808 yards and 301 completions. He ran for 624 yards, becoming the first quarterback since the Packers' Tobin Rote in 1951-52 to lead his team in rushing two years in a row. He passed for 407 yards in the infamous Fog Bowl playoff

continued on page 26

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loss to Chicago. He capped the year by being the Most Valuable Player of the Pro Bowl.

He has also emerged as the game's most exciting player. As Hall of Famer Sid Gillman said, "He's the only NFL quarterback who wouldn't surprise me if he ran for a 90-yard touchdown or threw for one." It is not uncommon to see him fade back, fake, reverse, pump, shuffle, duck between two colliding linemen, and then launch a bomb to Mike Quick. In the stodgy, pre-programmed world in the NFL, who else can make it up as he goes along?

He does it all while exhibiting a sense of compassion not always found in million-dollar athletes. One of Cunningham's regular habits is to drive through Philly's ghettos—ramshackle neighborhoods of broken houses and broken dreams—getting out of his car on occasion to shake a hand or maybe fill it with a buck or two.

"I know how fortunate I am," says Cunningham, 26. "If I can use my talent to some degree off the field, I'll feel I'm contributing."

"A folk hero," says Goode. "Just watch."

When he was growing up, Cunningham had a folk hero right in the next bedroom. Oldest brother Sam "Bam" was a star fullback, first at Santa Barbara High, then at the University of Southern California, then with the New England Patriots. Young Randall, the last of the four Cunningham brothers, used to wear Sam's oversized jersey around the neighborhood, telling anyone who would listen that he, too, would make the NFL.

From the start, he wanted to make it as a quarterback. Several high-visibility colleges recruited him as a running back or defensive back. So Cunningham ended up at Nevada-Las Vegas, which not only wanted him to play quarterback, but also a pro-style offense that would feature his talents.

Cunningham became the third quarterback in NCAA history to throw for 2,500 or more yards in three straight seasons (the others were John Elway and Doug Flutie). He shattered every school passing record, had his No. 12 jersey retired while he was still wearing it, and was twice an All-America—not as a passer but as a punter.

All was not joyous, however. Cunningham's mother, Mabel, died of cancer his freshman year. His father, Samuel Sr., died of a heart attack when Randall was a sophomore. At 19 years old, he was without parents. "It made me grow up in a hurry," he recalled. "I was kind of lost for a while. Then someone asked me what my parents would have wanted. Well, they would have wanted me to make it. So I set it as my goal that nothing would stop me."

He came to the Eagles in 1985 as the 37th player chosen in the draft (the debate among team officials at the time was whether to take Cunningham over UCLA quarterback Steve Bono). He arrived at training camp with long, Jerry curls, a black leather jacket, and a T-shirt that read ANY QUESTIONS? CALL MY AGENT. His first start came in the second game, against the Los Angeles Rams, and the overwhelmed rookie threw four interceptions. By the end of the season he was second-string and the critics were on him. Too sandlot, they cackled. Too undisciplined. Not smart enough.

In 1986, however, Cunningham came under the tutelage of that noted professor, James

David "Buddy" Ryan, who doubles as the Eagles' head coach when he isn't playing psychologist. Ryan changed the young quarterback's delivery and this thinking, forcing him to sit through months of films and strategy sessions and challenging him to call his own plays. "I'm putting all my eggs in your basket," Ryan told Cunningham. "Don't go breaking them on me."

That season, Ryan—father of the 46 defense in Chicago—concocted the position of "nickel quarterback," putting Cunningham in for sore-kneed starter Ron Jaworski on third-and-long situations. The job might seem impossible, but Cunningham occasionally pulled it off, dancing around in the backfield

More significantly, he showed on one play everything that makes him unique. It occurred in the first quarter, with the Eagles on the Giants' 4-yard line. Cunningham went back to pass, ranged to his right, and found Giants' linebacker Carl Banks drawing a bead on him. Banks took his best shot, cutting Cunningham's legs out from under him. But Cunningham broke his fall with his left hand, sprang upright as another linebacker, Harry Carson, bore in, and flipped a nifty touchdown pass to tight end Jimmie Giles.

It was a startling play, the stuff of all-time highlight films. That it occurred before a Monday night audience established him as a national star. Cunningham, who has since seen the replay, finds it hard to explain. "I don't know how I do that stuff," he admits. "I was as amazed as everyone else. I know I'm relaxed out there, I don't panic, and I don't give up until a play is over. But to explain that play, all I can say is that it's God-given talent."

False modesty? Unlikely. Cunningham is cocky—what good quarterback isn't? "There are a lot of talented players out there," he said, "but the few who can push themselves to be the best they can, those are the guys who make the difference. I want to be one of them."

He may not have that far to go. Cunningham's 1988 numbers were impressive—note the 24 touchdown passes and six touchdown runs. But equally impressive was his leadership. After the Eagles fell out of the gate, losing four of their first five games, Cunningham and backup quarterback Matt Cavanaugh called a players-only team meeting and exhorted teammates to play to their potential. Other players later cited that meeting as a reason the club went on to finish 10-6 and come within a dropped pass or two of beating the Bears in the playoffs.

What's left now for Cunningham is the Super Bowl. He has already disproved critics who called him too sandlot to make it in the NFL. He has shown that a running quarterback need not become a broken-down quarterback. And, along with the likes of Houston's Warren Moon and Washington's Doug Williams, he has shattered the myths that say a black quarterback can't win in the NFL.

Earlier in his career, Cunningham bristled at questions of race. He still wishes they would go away but, comfortable with his own success, he is willing to discuss the matter. "My whole life I've had to be one step faster, one yard better because I'm black," he said. "I can deal with that. I've always heard people say, 'You're not good enough, you're not smart enough, give it up.' Well, I'm smart enough to know the reason they're saying that. And I'm good enough to prove I can succeed." What bugs him most these days is when people suggest he is a fine role model for black children. "Why can't I be a role model for white kids? For Koreans or Chinese or whatever?" he asks. "I'm just trying to be a good human being."

So Cunningham is out in the off-season, sponsoring charity fashion shows, speaking for the American Cancer Society, and, on this day, making his way through the youth detention center. "I'm here to tell you how to stay out of trouble," he says.

Never mind that, the kids answer. Tell us about the time you beat Carl Banks. □

His amazing play against the Giants' Carl Banks established Randall Cunningham as a national star.

until he ran the posse ragged. On the one hand, he was sacked 72 times. On the other, he displayed flashes of brilliance. So, after that season, Jaworski—who gave body and soul to the sagging franchise for a decade—was let go. The job went to Cunningham. There would be no safety valve, no slow transition, no elder statesman.

"I took a lot of crap for that move," Ryan recalled. "But I knew the only way this club would become Randall's was if he was the only first-string quarterback around. I didn't want players debating who should be starting. Of course, nobody argues the issue now."

Indeed. In 1987, Cunningham's first full season at the helm, the Eagles' average points per game rose from 16 to 25. In 12 non-strike games, Cunningham threw for 23 touchdowns and just 12 interceptions. And he led the club in rushing. Said Eagles' all-pro receiver Mike Quick: "He definitely brings another dimension to the game. He can take the snap and hand off to himself. Once he's in the open field, he's like a receiver or a back."

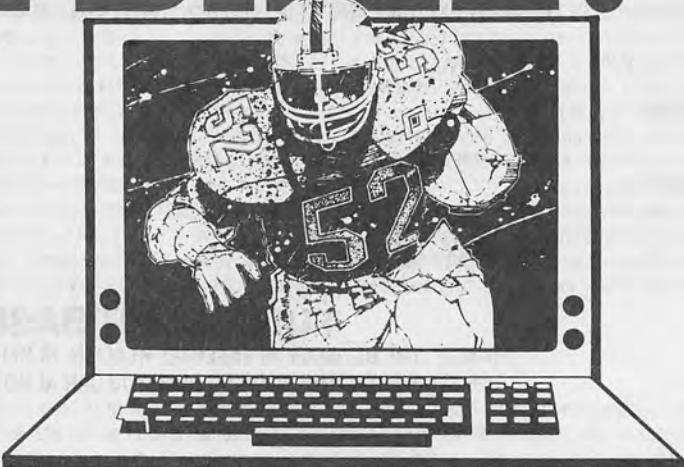
Still, there are critics who suggest that all that running (especially behind the Eagles' notoriously porous offensive line) invites the inevitable injury, that a 6-4, 195-pound quarterback has no business dancing out there in the land of the linebackers. "With other quarterbacks I would agree," said team doctor Vincent Distefano, "but Randall has an ability to bounce off hits. And he has a flexibility in his joints like I've never seen."

Let it be known, however, that those joints feel pain. Cunningham was among the few NFL quarterbacks not to sit out a game in 1988, but, he says, "I was hurt all season long. It took me five minutes to get out of bed each morning. I remember the day of the Monday night game against the Giants, I was sick all day. I had a flu, a fever, the works. My weight was down to 180 pounds."

Ah, the Monday night game. Last October 10, the Eagles took on the Giants in their first prime-time game in six seasons. Cunningham completed 31 of 41 passes for 369 yards and three touchdowns as the Eagles won, 24-13.

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every non-strike season since 1981—but the Chiefs have only had two winning seasons in that span. So Lowery has been to only one Pro Bowl in his 10-year career. He also has played in only one playoff game, and that bothers him even more.

"It's a fear of mine that when I look back at the end of my career, I'll have better statistics than any kicker ever, yet I was never part of a great team," Lowery said. "Being part of something special, that's what makes your career really mean something. You can live by your statistics for only so long. Then they become very empty. I want to be able to look back and say I was part of one of the great teams in history. That's my goal."

BILL FRALIC, Atlanta Falcons

Bill Fralic has been a member of some great teams—in college. The University of Pittsburgh went to the Cotton, Sugar, and Fiesta Bowls during Fralic's four-year career and the Panthers finished as high as No. 2 in the polls. But Fralic was the second overall choice of the 1985 draft, by the Atlanta Falcons, and he hasn't won since. The Falcons have endured four consecutive losing seasons since plugging Fralic into their offensive line.

"It's a lot easier to play football when you're winning and you're getting ready for what people consider a big game," Fralic said. "That's what you play for—the big games. It's much more difficult to play when you're 3-10 and finishing out the season, hoping to salvage a few victories. You go out there, there's no electricity in the air, and only 20,000 people in the stands... It's not what you think about in college when you daydream about professional football."

The Falcons are 19-43-1 since drafting Fralic. But while his team's performance has been forgettable, his individual performance has not. Fralic was named to the NFL all-rookie team in 1985 and has been voted to start each of the last three Pro Bowls.

"You want to win," Fralic said. "That makes you feel better than anything else. When I look back at the things I remember about football—high school, college, or whatever—the best moments have always been the victories, not the personal rewards. Winning makes the game all the more enjoyable."

LEE WILLIAMS, San Diego Chargers

Lee Williams feels the same way. He has put up some impressive numbers at defensive end for the San Diego Chargers recently, posting 15 sacks in 1986, eight in '87, and 11 in '88. He was voted to start in last year's Pro Bowl even though his team finished 6-10.

"I can be satisfied with my personal achievements," he said. "I can look back and say, 'I did all right. I went to the Pro Bowl.' But the bottom line is we didn't win, and I'm part of that. When your team is losing 75 percent of its games, nothing is very satisfying."

DERON CHERRY, Kansas City Chiefs

Defensive back Deron Cherry has intercepted more passes (40) over the last six seasons than any player in the NFL. He has been voted to six consecutive Pro Bowls in that stretch—the second-longest streak by a defensive back (after Ken Houston, 1970-79) since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970. His 41 career interceptions leave him nine short of the all-time

top 20. At 29, Cherry still has prime production ahead of him. But there's one gaping hole in his Hall of Fame portfolio: his employer. The Chiefs have had just two winning seasons and have been in only one playoff game in Cherry's eight-year career. The four players to be inducted to the Hall this summer—Mel Blount, Terry Bradshaw, Art Shell, and Willie Wood—won a combined 12 Super Bowls.

"I don't think you can find another defensive back in the history of football that has come as far as I have, that has accomplished as much in such a short period of time," said Cherry. "But the people who vote [on the Hall of Fame] look at the teams, the guys who have been in Super Bowls and won. It's a shame. There are a lot of guys who get overlooked because they don't play on winning teams."

Cherry points to Mike Haynes and Harry Carson as players whose careers—and Hall of Fame credentials—have been enhanced by Super Bowl rings. Haynes played in New England for seven seasons before being traded to the Raiders in 1983. The Raiders won the Super Bowl that year. In the first eight years of Carson's career, the New York Giants managed only one winning season. But like Payton, Carson finally won a Super Bowl in his 11th season.

"Mike Haynes was getting lost in New England," Cherry said. "Then he goes to the Raiders, they win the Super Bowl... and suddenly Mike Haynes is the greatest defensive back in football. Look at the Giants. They lost for all those years, then they win that one Super Bowl... and Harry Carson is recognized as one of the greatest linebackers who has

ever played the game. You have a great year and win a championship, then all of a sudden people recognize what you've accomplished over the years. But until you do that, you're almost in obscurity."

Which brings us back to Manning. Only 19 quarterbacks in NFL history have completed more passes than Manning and only 28 have thrown for more yards. He went to two Pro Bowls in his career and in a feat worthy of *That's Incredible!* was named the NFC Player of the Year in 1978 on a New Orleans team that finished 7-9. Manning didn't win in the first 11 years of his career at New Orleans, nor did he win in the 1½ years he spent at Houston, nor the 1½ seasons he spent at Minnesota before retirement. His teams finished .500 twice, and their composite record in the Manning era was 55-145-3.

"I'm not scarred by it," Manning said. "I'm not bitter about it. I look at my football career as something positive. It was a childhood aspiration of mine to be a pro football player, and I got to do it 14 years. I'm grateful that I got to play as long as I did. Some nice things happened to me along the way, some nice individual awards. It was a good trip for me. But it is a team game, so you do feel you missed out on something."

"Even now when I watch the playoffs, there's still a little something there. I didn't really get to see the brightest side of football—the playoffs, the championships—so there's a void there. But I promise you, I don't lie awake at night worrying about it."

But for some of today's unrecognized stars, the dream lingers on. □

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When did pro football stop being a game and become a humorless big business?

In the goofball football novel *Life Its Own-self* by Dan Jenkins, there is a good-ol'-boy sportswriter named Jim Tom Pinch, who writes: "Here is a list of things I would rather do than watch a football game in the NFL.

1. Buy a condo in Lebanon.
2. Go to a rock concert.
3. See a movie with special effects in it.
4. Join a religious cult.
5. Sit in the no-smoking area of a restaurant.
6. Discuss wine.
7. Watch a marathon.
8. Talk to a swimmer.
9. Eat a fish head.
10. Get married again."

Jim Tom, see, thinks the National Football League has gotten stale, dull, boring. Of course, Jim Tom is slightly eccentric. Jim Tom hates hockey so much, he thinks the only way the game can be improved is if they invent a 5,000-pound puck and then play one long game, East Coast vs. West Coast, until one side manages to push the puck into the other side's ocean.

But, hey, maybe Jim Tom's got something there when he talks about pro football. Maybe the game has, indeed, become a tad drab. Maybe it really has become a game for mutant robots, programmed to kill, kill, kill, but ordered to show as little emotion as possible in the process. Maybe NFL really does stand for No Fun Left.

You can't dance in the end zone anymore. You can't dance over the body of a sacked quarterback anymore. You can't make too much noise in the seats or some referee will penalize your favorite team 15 yards. You can't wear wacky headbands on the field. You can't even come up with any sort of innovation, like Cincinnati's no-huddle offense, without having the wrath of the commissioner's office come down on your heads.

The NFL just isn't very funny anymore. It needs to lighten up, loosen up, boogie down,

Illustrated by Steve Haefele

by MIKE DOWNEY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NFL=No Fun Left

chill out. At the moment, the entire sport is about as wacky as Joe Gibbs's home movies. It is becoming military-like in its restrictions and regulations. With the passing of every colorful figure who came down the pike, we are left with people like Brian Bosworth who pass as colorful, when the only thing truly funny about him is his grooming.

Come on, let Ickey do his shuffle wherever he wants. Let Gastineau do the shimmy when he has put some passer on the seat of his pants. Let McMahon write things right on his forehead if necessary. Where's your sense of humor, you NFL crabs, you? Don't tell me your idea of biting wit is Conrad Dobler munching on a defensive tackle. Don't force franchises to get rid of their existing mascots so you can place those identical inflated fuzzballs of yours out there and then insist that we find them adorable.

And stop treating that stupid Super Bowl as if we are all about to witness the Battle of the Bulge. Let's at least have a funky half-time show once in a while, instead of that Young Caucasians in Bib Overalls group that assembles every year at midfield to release multicolored balloons from a net. Here's an idea: Spring James Brown from prison for 24 hours. Give him a furlough. Let armed guards stand around him. We need to pep up this half-time show with a little more spicy entertainment. Set somebody loose in a Roger Rabbit costume and then tell a couple of linebackers to high-low him. Turn John Matuszak loose on a Disney World production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and ask him to go out there and kick some serious dwarf butt. Now that's entertainment.

It's just no fun anymore. It's just Big Business. The TV commercials get more coverage these days than the game itself. We read stories about how much money a 60-second advertisement costs. We see promotions for a commercial involving football-playing Budweiser bottles. We send a couple thousand sportswriters to some city for 7 to 14 days to prepare us for an event that is going to last 3½ hours, and by the end of the fortnight, we know more than we want to know, everything from Joe Montana's favorite mouthwash to an in-depth analysis of the opposing defensive coordinators' wardrobes.

And then, the TV coverage. Announcers who think they are colorful, just because they speak with a semi-drawl and start most of their sentences with: "I tell ya." Broadcasters so reluctant to call a bad game a bad game that they break for commercials during 41-7 slaughters with the words: "Don't go away. We've still got a lot of football left." And the

tedious anecdotes—or, at least, their idea of anecdotes—which always begin: "I had a chance to speak with [Player or Coach's Name], and he told me . . ." Only what he was told was something on the order of: "We've really had a good week of practice."

After Billy Clyde Puckett retires from football and becomes a color analyst in Jenkins's book, somebody at the network tells him what to say and do, and Billy replies: "Gee, when my friends and I watch the game, we like the announcers to give the clock and the score and otherwise shut the (bleep) up."

With parity having come to the NFL, the league has lost some of its most intriguing characters and franchises, and must ask us to become interested in whatever Buffalo or Cleveland happens to get hot over a given season. That's O.K. We can do it. Only, stop blowing the whistle on these people every time they try to have some fun. Was it absolutely necessary to forbid football players from celebrating in the end zone after touchdowns? Was "rubbing it in" really so terrible that it deserved to get your team penalized on the ensuing kickoff? Wasn't Elmo Wright's dance wonderful, or those five little Washington Redskins who formed the Fun Bunch and partied in pay dirt to their hearts' content? Did Ickey Woods get less attention by shuffling on the sideline instead of on the field?

The human element has been taken from pro football to the point that the "plane of the end zone" has become our final frontier. Any

day now, somebody will create an electric eye that takes this decision away from the referees. We will know that, say, Eric Dickerson's hands broke the plane of the end zone, with the football, because a beeper will go off. Touchdown, Colts. Beeeheeep.

Instant replay is accurate, but what a drag. How boring, standing around for four minutes, waiting for some myopic alternate referee in a glass booth to examine a TV picture from 22 angles before barking into his walkie-talkie that, yes, ladies and gentlemen, Jerry Rice did have control of the football before Mike Singletary butted him into the Gatorade cooler.

Imagine instant replay in baseball. Here's the throw to the plate! Morgan slides! Fisk makes the tag! Cloud of dust! And . . . we'll be back, right after this message, to let you know how the play turned out.

"Upon further examination, we find that Morgan's foot missed the plate by inches. The Red Sox win."

The National Football League wants to do everything good and proper, but has become touchy on so many subjects. For example, telling Sam Wyche what strategy he can and cannot use. Get real! If Sam Wyche wants to go without a huddle and use an orangutan in motion, he ought to be able to do so. There is no law in the NFL rulebook about using members of the ape family.

And now, saving the worst for last, we have this new rule telling the fans to shut up. That's right, you people who paid your money, if you start to make too much noise at NFL games now, we are going to teach you a lesson. How dare you try to distract the opponents, anyway? Imagine the nerve of some people—yell-





ing at a football game. This especially applies to you Dome People. You there, you Seahawk fan, you Viking Fan, you Oiler fan, you Lion fan—SHUT UP, WILLYA!!! CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE TRYING TO PLAY A FOOTBALL GAME DOWN THERE?

This also goes out to you, the Domeless. Listen up, you barking Cleveland dogs, you make one more "arf" and we are going to march those Browns right back to their own 2-yard line. See how you like them apples. You there. You people at the Redskin game, under the blanket. If you want to go someplace and make noise, go over to Congress and yell at a senator or something. This is professional football. Quiet, please.

It will not be long before an NFL game is treated exactly like the Masters golf tournament, or Wimbledon. A hush falls over the crowd as John Elway drops back to pass. He's got Vance Johnson open deep... Oh, Johnson drops the ball! Wait a minute—what's this? Johnson is claiming that a fan distracted him by making a noise. A man in Row 21 is now being escorted out of the stadium by Security. Boy, some people have no respect for the athlete at all.

We believe we can foresee many other changes in the NFL to come:

1. NO MORE TEAM COLORS

All home teams will wear white uniforms, all visiting teams will wear black. It's less confusing for everybody, especially guys who get traded and can't remember what color they're wearing this year.

2. NO MORE REFRESHMENTS

Even from non-alcoholic beverages such as Coca-Cola and 7-Up, fans can receive an excess energy buildup and thus become unruly. Also, all Gatorade will be removed from team sidelines, to avoid any of that coach-splashing we can do without.

3. STANDARD DRESS FOR COACHES

No more waiting to see what sort of sleeveless sweater Mike Ditka might be wearing, or whether a Bum Phillips or Tom Landry will come along with some kind of interesting headwear. From now on, all coaches must dress in standard-issue NFL pullover sweater and golf shirt, and wear their hair, if they have hair, exactly like Jimmy Johnson.

4. SIGNAL-CALLING RESTRICTIONS

No more audibles. No more quick snaps. No more trying to throw the defensive line offside. A line judge will call out the hut-hut-huts for both quarterbacks, and all plays will begin on the third hut.

5. LEAVE THE RECEIVERS ALONE

Pass receivers must not be touched at any time, before the ball is thrown, when the ball is in the air, or after the ball is caught. A defensive player either must bat down the football or try to chase the receiver out of bounds. Any cornerback or safety making contact with a pass receiver faces automatic ejection.

6. WEATHER MUST REMAIN THE SAME FOR EVERYBODY

There will be no more pro football played in fog, snow, rain, sleet, or cold. Games will either be postponed until weather conditions change, or moved within 72 hours to the nearest domed stadium. The wind at San Francisco, Chicago, etc., must not exceed 15 m.p.h., or else place-kicks will be moved half-the-distance closer to the goal.

7. NO MORE NICKNAMES

We no longer care what color shoes Billy Johnson wears, how sweet Walter Payton is, how many victims Jack Tatum has assassinated, how many amigos the Denver Broncos have, or how tall this Ed Jones person is. Nicknames are out. You were given a name at birth—use it. A plan to refer to players only by number is pending. Exemptions will be made for certain unimaginative nicknames such as Bo, Chip, Skip, or Billy, but at no time will

anybody on any field be permitted to call himself Bubba.

8. TOTAL BROADCAST APPROVAL

Pat Summerall will be the play-by-play man for all nationally televised NFL games, because he never embarrasses the league.

9. BANNER CONTROL

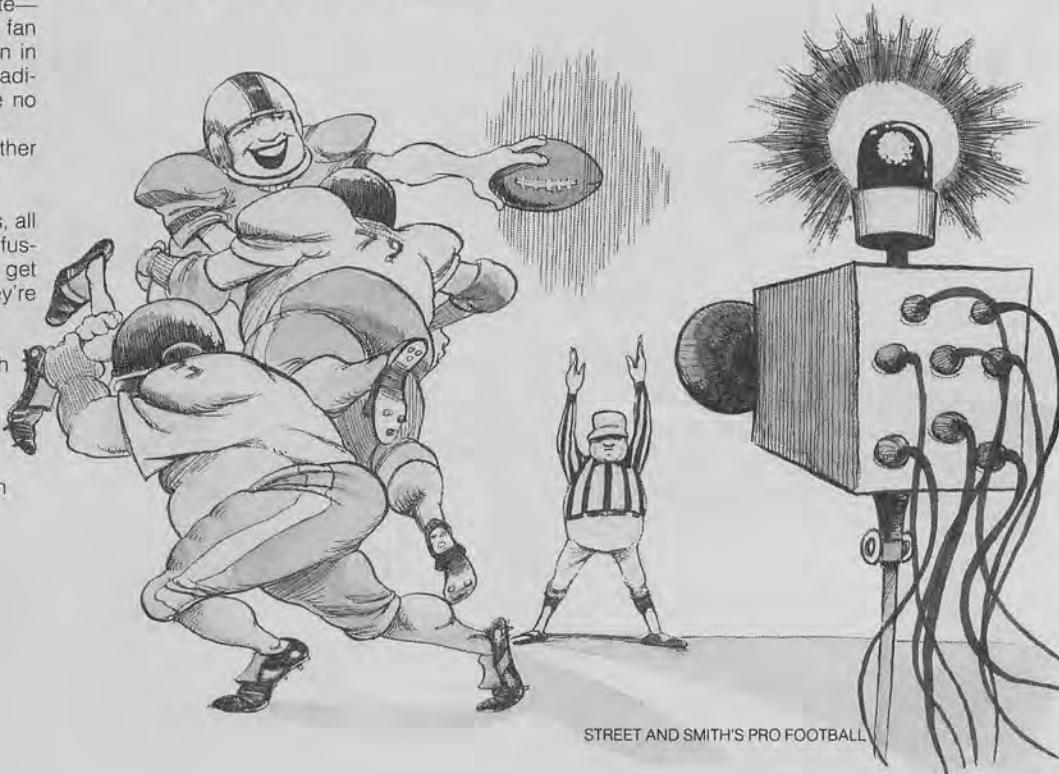
All bed sheets, posters, and placards must be inspected at stadium entrances and approved by Banner Control. On the NFL-approved list will be: (a) any sign using a clever play on words beginning with the three letters of the TV network doing the game, as in "Can't Beat Steelers" (CBS), "Nobody Beats Cowboys" (NBC), or "Anybody Beats Chargers" (ABC); (b) selected Bible passages, or (c) hellos to hometowns, provided the town does not have a funny name.

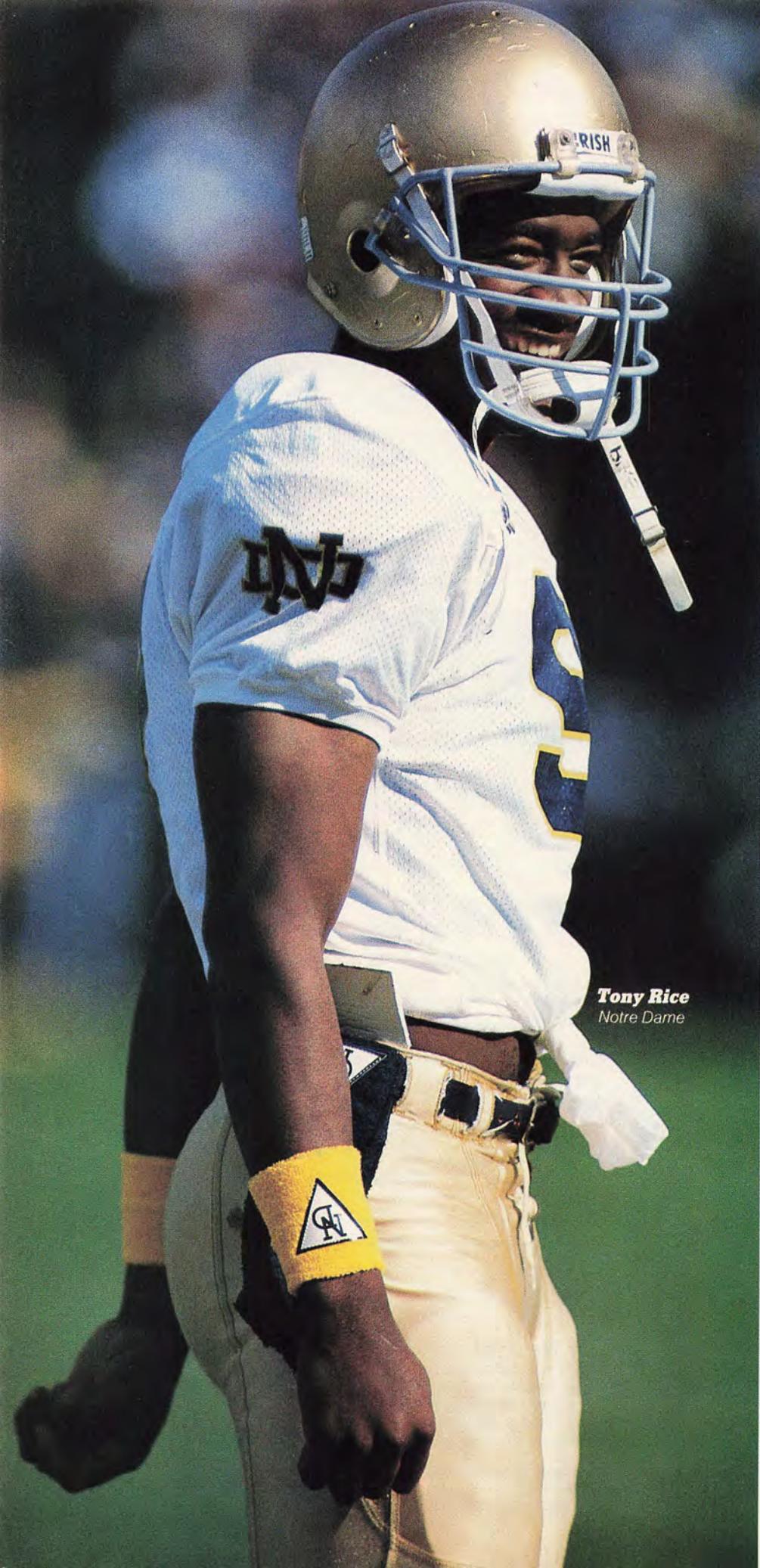
10. INTERVIEW ETIQUETTE

Whenever addressing the coach of an NFL team, whether before a game or at half-time or in a postgame press conference, this person must be addressed as "Coach." None of this "Mike" or "Jerry" or "Chuck" stuff. Be respectful. A little courtesy never hurt anybody.

We sincerely believe that under the rule of a new commissioner, the National Football League can become the IBM of sports—big, gray, and powerful. Nobody ever said football was supposed to be fun. You don't run laps and take steroids and maul tackling dummies to have fun. Football is a business, and the object of business is to do business.

Shake Tiller, best friend of Billy Clyde Puckett, suggested that one way football could be improved was to do away with the fair catch. See, that's the trouble. Pro football is becoming one big fair catch. There really are people out there who think it's a pretty good game, except for the tackling part. □





Tony Rice
Notre Dame

WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR

*A preview of the 1989
All-America team*

by **RANDALL MELL**

FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS

Looking for next year's top draft picks? Wondering which college players will dominate their positions and attract the adoring stares of the pro scouts? The quest to win All-America honors, to earn consideration for the Heisman Trophy and other awards, and to improve one's draft status begins this summer on campuses across the country.

Each position has its all-star candidates. Offensively there's Penn State's Blair Thomas at running back. The knee is the key for him. At quarterback is California's Troy Taylor. He reminds his coach of a young Joe Montana. On the line there's UCLA's Frank Cornish, once a reluctant center. The game's best defenders combine great speed and size. Baylor's James Francis, a top linebacker, has discovered the wonders of the weight room. In the secondary are Southern Cal safeties Mark Carrier and Cleveland Colter. They pack a 1-2 punch reminiscent of former Trojans Ronnie Lott and Dennis Smith. Finally, on the line, there's Washington's Dennis Brown. At 300 pounds, he runs like a linebacker.

Here's a closer look at those players who figure to contend for many honors this fall.

RUNNING BACKS

How's Blair's knee? Fans want to know. Pro scouts want to know. It's a \$1 million question.

"It's better than ever" says Blair Thomas. "Seems totally recovered," confirmed John Butler, the Buffalo Bills' director of scouting. Thomas (5-11, 190) is looking to regain the form that made him one of the nation's best backs over a year ago. He rushed for 1,414 yards in 1987, the third-highest total in Penn State history, and caught 23 passes for 300 yards. But torn ligaments in his right knee, suffered in an informal workout for that year's Citrus Bowl, sidelined him all of last season. He's had reconstructive surgery and is optimistic about his prospects for the fall. In workouts this past spring, he ran a 4.4 in the 40-yard dash (prior to the injury his best time was 4.38). Still, Thomas has much to prove. He didn't take part in the spring contact drills and Penn State coach Joe Paterno plans to introduce him to contact slowly in August.

"As far as I'm concerned, the injury is old news," Thomas said. "I thought I could have

AKO/SPORTS

played the last couple of games [in '88]. I think I'm better than I used to be. I'm ready to go. I'm excited."

"He's healthy from what we can tell," said Dick Steinberg, director of player development for the New England Patriots. "He ran extremely well on Penn State's timing date."

A strong and rehabilitated Thomas figures to be a solid All-America consideration and a high first-round draft choice next April. "If Blair is healthy, there's no question in my mind he will be the leading candidate for the Heisman Trophy," said Paterno. "Not one of them—he will be the leading candidate, regardless of who else is around."

"He's an outstanding talent who was pegged as definite first-round pick before he got hurt," Butler admitted. "Playing last season would merely have determined whether he was the first or second back taken."

Other Backs to Watch

With Barry Sanders, Tim Worley, Bobby Humphrey, and Sammie Smith turning pro early, Thomas is a standout in a senior class that also includes Indiana's Anthony Thompson, South Carolina's Harold Green, Nebraska's Ken Clark, and Minnesota's Darrell Thompson. Florida's Emmitt Smith, Texas A&M's Darren Lewis, and Michigan's Tony Boles are among the top underclassmen.

Anthony Thompson (6-0, 205) was the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player last season and the nation's No. 3 rusher with a school-record 1,546 yards and 24 touchdowns. "Thompson is by far the best running back we've seen in years," said Iowa coach Hayden Fry.

Tom Hodson Louisiana State



Harold Green (6-2, 218) ran for 606 yards and had 36 receptions for 315 more yards despite being hobbled throughout the season by a sore ankle.

Ken Clark (5-9, 200) rushed for 1,497 yards in the shadow of the Big Eight's Barry Sanders. He had 1,069 of those yards in the Cornhuskers' last six games.

Darrell Thompson (6-1, 220) is the only player to lead the Big Ten in rushing in each of his first two years. He gained 910 yards in 1988, the first time he did not go over 1,000, to increase his school-record total to 3,379.

Tony Boles (6-2, 190) won the Big Ten rushing title and was fourth nationally with 1,359 yards a year ago. He averaged over 172 all-purpose yards per game for the Rose Bowl champion Wolverines and scored nine touchdowns.

Junior Darren Lewis (5-10, 205) had a school-record 1,692 yards, second-best to Heisman winner Sanders. "Sometimes you will play against a guy who is dangerous because of his speed but who doesn't have the ability to run over you and break tackles," Aggies' coach R.C. Slocum said. "Darren has a little bit of both qualities."

Emmitt Smith (5-10, 205) doesn't have great speed, but he is quick and instinctive and rushed for 988 yards in his sophomore year despite missing two games with a knee injury. He needs 906 yards to overtake Neal Anderson as the Gators' career rushing leader.

QUARTERBACKS

The decision by Miami's Steve Walsh and Washington State's Timm Rosenbach to enter the NFL supplemental draft leaves the spotlight on California senior Troy Taylor, whose talents have been obscured in the quarter-

Tony Boles Michigan



back-rich Pac-10 conference. Troy Aikman, Rodney Peete, and Rosenbach grabbed most of last year's headlines. They had better numbers with better teams, but none was more important to his team than Taylor was to Cal.

"Troy has a chance to be the best in the country," said his coach, Bruce Snyder. "I don't know if it's fair to compare him to anybody, but he reminds me of Joe Montana with his ability to make things happen and his leadership qualities."

Strong-armed and mobile, Taylor (6-4, 190) passed for 2,416 yards and 16 touchdowns last season with 14 interceptions. And his supporting cast didn't rank with those of his All-America quarterback peers. Much of Taylor's passing came while he was running for his life. He was sacked 40 times yet still completed 60 percent of his passes.

"He has light feet with a quick release," Cal offensive coordinator Terry Shea said. "And he's a very advanced player at the line of scrimmage. He reads defenses well and makes the necessary adjustments."

Taylor has learned to pass while rolling out in a moving pocket. He adjusted as his offense changed last season, throwing just four interceptions in his final six games and using the audible often in Cal's multiple-set offense. He also rushed for 110 yards in the last two games. "I like to throw on the run," Taylor ad-

mitted. "People have said that at 190 pounds I need to gain weight for pro ball. I think when you take 40 sacks, you've shown you are pretty durable."

Other Quarterbacks to Watch

Louisiana State's Tom Hodson (6-3, 195) has the physical tools pro scouts like. But he is coming off his least productive season. For the first time in three years he completed less than 60 percent of his passes (52.6) and had a career-high 12 interceptions and a career-low 13 touchdown tosses. And yet a healthy Hodson will almost surely become the LSU and SEC all-time passing leader this season.

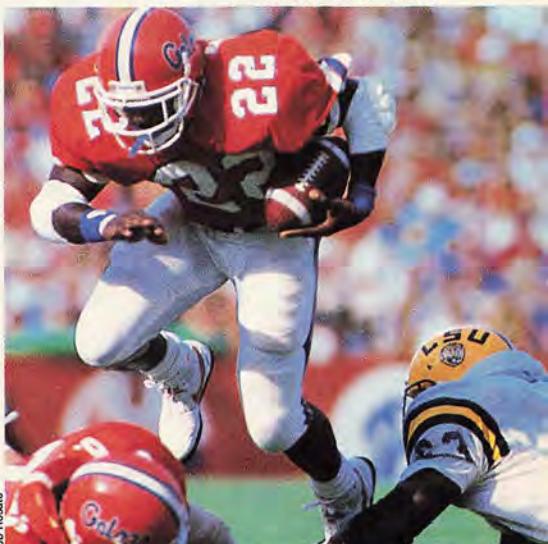
South Carolina's Todd Ellis, like Hodson, is looking to have that All-America season experts have predicted for him. He is 6-3 and 203 pounds, and pro scouts like his arm and his potential. What they don't like is his knack for throwing more interceptions (64) than touchdowns (39). Ellis, too, is trying to recover from his least effective effort. He completed 183 of 354 attempts for 2,223 yards with nine TDs and 18 interceptions. Still, with 8,449 career yards, a big year could propel him past San Diego State's Todd Santos (11,425 yards) as the NCAA record holder.

Notre Dame's Tony Rice (6-1, 198) the Street & Smith's Exemplary Athlete Award winner in 1988, is an all-purpose threat whose improved passing helped push the Irish over the top in last year's championship season. Rice's skillful running of the option was made more dangerous by his big-play passing. With 4.48 speed and a strong arm, he led Notre Dame in rushing (700 yards) and passed for 1,176 yards.

West Virginia junior Major Harris (6-1, 207) is the leading returning Heisman vote-getter (fifth last season). His 167.4 pass-efficiency rating would have been the nation's best, but he fell five passes short of qualifying.

Utah junior Scott Mitchell (6-6, 235) completed 323 of 533 passes for 4,322 yards and 29 touchdowns with 15 interceptions and broke 10 NCAA single-game and season records in the process. "He's better than any of [the other quarterbacks]," NFL draft analyst Joel Buschbaum said. "He's got the size and the arm he produces."

Emmitt Smith Florida



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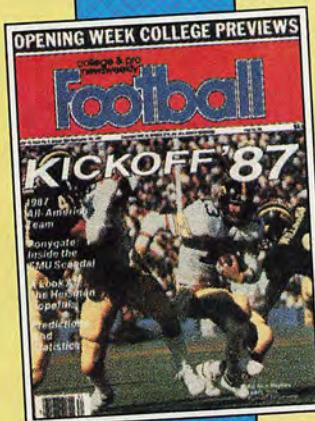
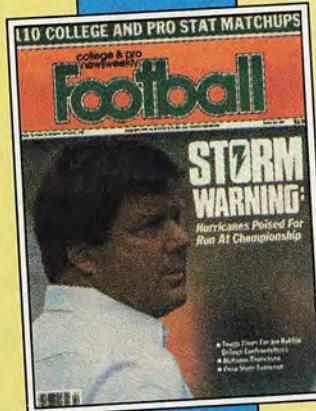
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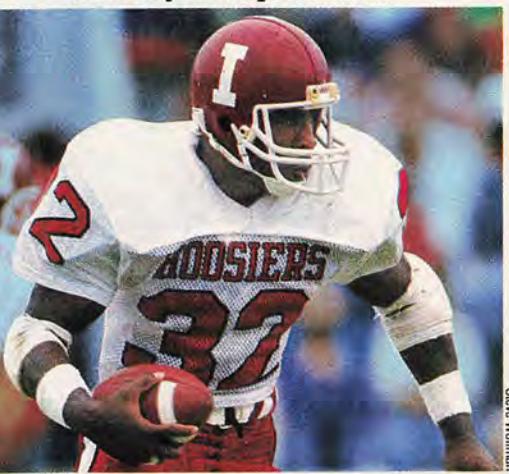
WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR

WIDE RECEIVERS

Duke's sports information department has labeled him "Frequent Flyer." Senior wide receiver Clarkston Hines (6-1, 170) runs a 4.4 in the 40 and has a vertical leap of 40 inches. But it's his heart, claims Duke coach Steve Spurrier, that sets him apart. "When the game's on the line and a catch has to be made, he makes it for us," said Spurrier. "He's without a doubt the best receiver I've ever coached. He has a tremendous ability to catch the ball in traffic, get clubbed, and shake it off. He gets off the ground on those third-and-eights and third-and-twelves to make the big play."

Surgery sidelined Hines in 1985, but he has shown no lingering effects from strained knee ligaments. He has put together impressive

Anthony Thompson Indiana



Troy Taylor California



Otto Greule Jr./All Sport USA

1,000-yard receiving seasons, the only player in ACC history to do so. His 68 catches in '88 ranked eighth nationally. He's averaged 17.3 yards per reception the last two years and needs just 263 yards to become the ACC career leader. "Steve Spurrier runs an exciting offense," said Hines. "It's a receiver's dream with the ball in the air half the time. Receivers are going to get plenty of chances."

While Hines shapes up as the class of the wideouts, UCLA senior Charles Arbuckle may be the best of the tight ends. Healthy, he runs a 4.6 in the 40 and has big, soft hands. At 6-2 and 238 pounds, Arbuckle has a prototypical tight end's frame. He missed some time with knee injuries for the second straight year but

still showed the skills that make him a favorite of pro scouts. He had 17 catches for 259 yards for the season and was at his best in the 41-28 thumping of Nebraska, when he caught five passes for 100 yards and two TDs.

Other Receivers to Watch

West Virginia senior Reggie Rembert combines great size (6-6, 200) and speed. The Mountaineers' fastest player, Rembert makes the big play on deep routes or running the reverse. He averaged 22.7 yards on his 21 receptions and 16 yards rushes.

Senior Greg McMurtry (6-3, 197) skipped spring practice to play baseball for Michigan and may face the dilemma of choosing between professional baseball and football. He's the Wolverines' leading returning receiver (25 catches for 445 yards) and is averaging 21 yards per reception for his career.

Florida State senior Ron Lewis (6-0, 172) has great tools but must share the numbers with three other talented Seminole receivers. He's a deep threat who pulled in 27 passes for 484 yards and two TDs in 1988.

Syracuse junior Rob Moore (6-2, 197) is being compared to former Orange standout Art Monk. Moore is big, strong, and fast. He's also productive, having caught 44 passes for 797 yards last season with 11 touchdowns.

OFFENSIVE LINE

New York Giants' general manager George Young once said that many a college offensive lineman would do himself a big favor by learning to play center. Good centers, you see, are hard to find. It's often the position of last resort but first import on the line. Even the best are a reluctant lot. So it was with UCLA senior Frank Cornish (6-4, 275). The first time a Bruins' coach asked Cornish to hike, Cornish told him to take a hike. But after two years as a reserve guard, Cornish was persuaded to try the new position; 24 consecutive starts later, he has become a dominating player. "We're comparing him to some of the greatest offensive linemen we've had here," UCLA assistant coach Ed Kezirian said.

Other Offensive Linemen to Watch

Nebraska senior Jake Young (6-5, 260) will make a bid to follow in the large footsteps of former Cornhusker two-time All-America centers Dave Rimington and Rick Bonness. Nebraska line coaches call Young one of the finest technicians they've worked with.

Kentucky senior Mike Pfeifer (6-7, 300) is a bulldozer of a tackle. He is recovering from a knee injury suffered against Alabama that put a premature end to his 1988 season, but is expected to return at full strength. He bench-presses 465 pounds and runs the 40 in 5.0.

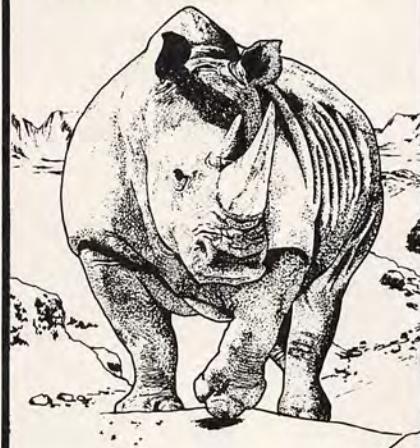
LINEBACKERS

Here's a scary thought for Southwest Conference offenses: Baylor senior linebacker James Francis bulked up 25 pounds in the offseason without losing a step. Francis was a one-man wrecking crew as a 6-4 and 225-pound weakside linebacker. At 250, he will be moved to the strong side to allow him to freelance this year.

"He can go so many places in so many ways," Baylor coach Grant Teaff said. "He'll make a 15-yard loss on a sack, and on the very next play intercept a pass 20 yards downfield."

Francis's all-round athletic skills helped the Bears' basketball team earn an NCAA tournament berth two years ago. As a valuable sixth

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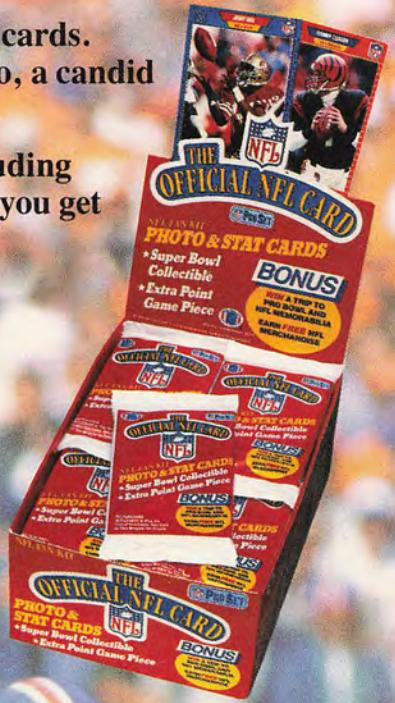
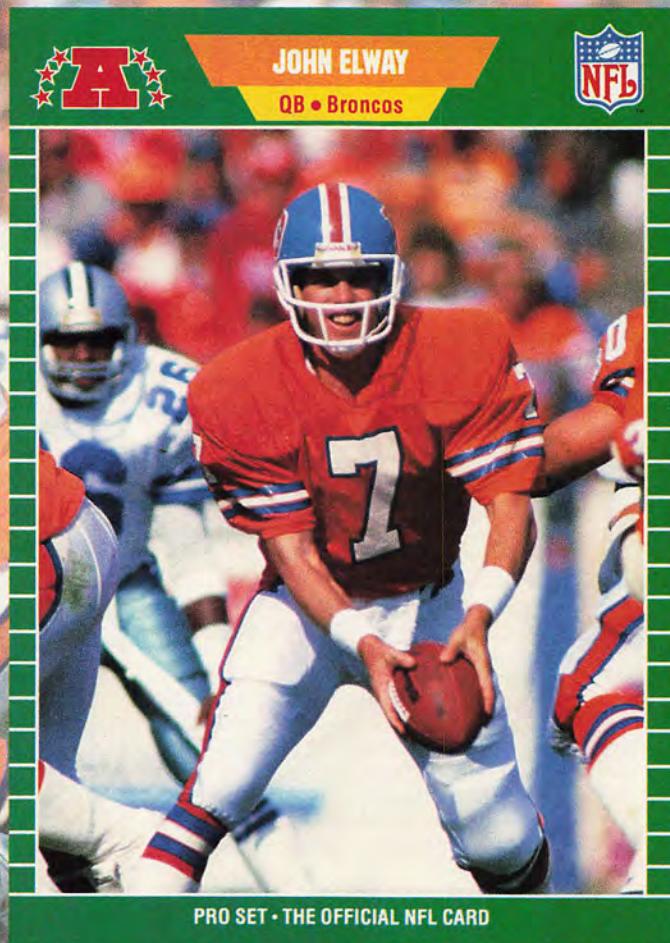
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WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR

man, he was the first Baylor player to letter in football and basketball since Del Shofner in the 1950s. Francis, who had never undergone a weight-training regimen, skipped basketball last winter to take part in the offseason football program. "I loved playing basketball, but I know I'm not going to be a professional basketball player," said Francis, whose brother Ron is a defensive back for the Dallas Cowboys. "I was never much of a weight lifter in high school, but I improved my bench press by 100 pounds this winter. I feel a lot stronger, and I haven't lost any speed."

Blair Thomas Penn State



Al Koutsta

Francis had eight sacks last season, knocked down eight passes at the line, and had two fumble recoveries. "There's no question in my mind he's playing as well as well as any linebacker in the country," said Teaff late last year. "He has been dominating."

Other Linebackers to Watch

Texas A&M senior outside linebacker Aaron Wallace (6-4, 230) is the equal of Francis. He had 14½ sacks last season, giving him 31½ for his career, third-best in school history.

Michigan State senior middle linebacker Percy Snow (6-3, 230) was among the five finalists in last year's Butkus Award voting. Spartans' head coach George Perles likens him to former Steeler great Jack Lambert. "When he gets there, he lights 'em up," Perles said. And he gets everywhere. Snow had a phenomenal 164 tackles in '88.

Syracuse senior outside linebacker Terry Wooden (6-2, 228) has 14 career sacks and six interceptions.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

They call them "Aircraft" Carrier and "Cadillac" Colter. Together, they're simply Southern Cal's "Twin Towers." USC junior free safety Mark Carrier (6-1, 180) and senior strong safety Cleveland Colter (6-1, 195) are college football's top secondary. They are so good that this year's Jim Thorpe Award may come down to a competition between the two. The pair has been favorably compared to Ronnie Lott and Dennis Smith, NFL stars who once roamed the USC secondary together.

"It's rare to have All-Americans at both safety positions," Southern Cal coach Larry Smith said. "The two of them together are a real force. Carrier is the rock of our secondary. He had an outstanding season in 1988. He's very

intelligent, has great range, and is a tremendous hitter. He's deserving of every national honor coming his way. I don't think you'll find a better safety around, unless it's Colter."

That depends on Colter's knee. He missed the final four games after undergoing arthroscopic surgery for torn ligament and cartilage in his left knee. He sat out spring practice while undergoing rehabilitation.

Other Defensive Backs to Watch

Baylor senior safety Robert Blackmon (5-11, 195) helped the Bears' secondary limit opponents to an NCAA-low 117.8 yards per game. Although his season was cut in half by a shoulder injury, Blackmon is expected back at full strength this fall.

Missouri senior cornerback Adrian Jones (6-0, 184) led the Big Eight in interceptions last season despite a broken arm. He shares the school record with 14 career steals.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

In high school he had "Master of Disaster" stitched on his letterman's jacket. They call him Mr. D. Dennis Brown (6-4, 300), the University of Washington's senior defensive tackle, has a reputation for devouring running backs and hamburgers with equal relish. Despite his size, Brown runs the 40 faster (4.9) than some linebackers. Not that his weight, which has fluctuated from 290 to 320 pounds, has been much of a problem. But at any size, he's potentially the nation's best lineman. It just depends on which Dennis Brown shows up. He virtually disappeared the first five games last season, but then came on with a fury against Southern Cal in his homecoming return to Los Angeles. He finished strongly, earning second-team All-America honors from UPI. "Coach [Don] James just told me I wasn't playing to my potential and it was time to do it," explained Brown. "I got more into attacking the offensive linemen and getting into the backfield."

At his best, Brown presents major problems for opposing linemen. Washington coaches say he's in the mold of former Husky greats Doug Martin and Ron Holmes. "On third-and-long, I want to get the sack," Brown said. "On third-and-short, I want to tackle the guy for a loss. I want to dominate."

Brown missed most of the final three games last season with a knee injury, but he was back at full strength in the spring. Back and ready to intimidate.

Other Defensive Linemen to Watch

Southern Cal tackle Tim Ryan comes 50 pounds lighter than Brown but not any less effective. He's 6-4 and 250 pounds of terror. "Tim is the old man of the defense," said coach Larry Smith. "He's a dominant, big-play type who controls the line of scrimmage." The former junior Olympic boxing champion had a team-high 13 tackles for losses last season.

Stanford senior Lester Archambeau (6-5, 255) gives the Pac-10 another imposing interior lineman. In spite of nagging injuries he has started 34 consecutive games at left tackle. Cardinal coaches consider him one of the best linemen in school history.

Florida State senior Odell Haggins (6-2, 260) is a nose tackle with a linebacker's heart. He made the switch reluctantly early in his career, and now he is being mentioned in the same breath as 1979-80 FSU consensus All-America Ron Simmons.

Keep an eye on these players this fall, then look for some of them in next spring's draft. □

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INDISPENSABLE PLAYERS

by DON PIERSON

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Not only did the Chicago Bears lose Walter Payton, Wilber Marshall, Willie Gault, William Perry, Otis Wilson, Gary Fencik, Richard Dent, and Jim McMahon for all or a significant part of the 1988 season, they even lost their coach when Mike Ditka suffered a heart attack on November 2. Yet the Bears got to the NFC title game after finishing with a 12-4 record, completing the best four-year run in NFL history (52-11).

Ditka missed only 11 days with his heart attack because he realized better than anyone else the truth of the old high school cheer: if Iron Mike can't do it, somebody else will. Defensive coordinator Vince Tobin was 2-0 as interim head coach, and if Tobin hadn't done it... well, you're beginning to get the picture.

Entire teams were replaced during the 1987 strike, and it turned out that the teams which made the playoffs were the same ones that would have made them anyway. So are there no Franchise Players left? Is no one sacred? Could it really be that the Denver Broncos are more than a one-man team, not John Elway's Denver Broncos? Could it be true that the Chicago Bears would have won last year with owner Virginia Halas McCaskey coaching and her 11 children playing both ways?

Maybe not.

So where did the buck stop with the Bears? Who kept the Bears intact through thin and thinner? What was the bottom line behind the offensive and defensive lines?

"Mike Singletary," said Buffalo's Marv Levy.

Who was Buffalo's indispensable man?

"Gee, there's more than one. Jim Kelly, Cornelius Bennett, Bruce Smith," Levy said. After a pause and a laugh, "It's me," the coach said facetiously.

Ditka predicted the slide of the Bears following their 1985 championship when he said, "Everybody started thinking he was the main reason we won." The parts cannot become bigger than the whole. Still, the whole is composed of integral and important parts, some pretty close to indispensable.

"Your best player is not always your most valuable player," said Raiders' boss Al Davis. "We had one guy who started the 1976, 1980, and 1983 Super Bowls, and I don't think anyone would ever say he was our best player, but to me he was our MVP: Cliff Branch. "When he came out of the huddle, you had to find him if you were on defense."

The most important individuals on some of the best teams in the ultimate team sport:

MIKE SINGLETARY

Chicago Bears

He almost had a chance to prove it last year, when so many teammates disappeared and he was practically the only one left. But not quite. The consummate middle linebacker

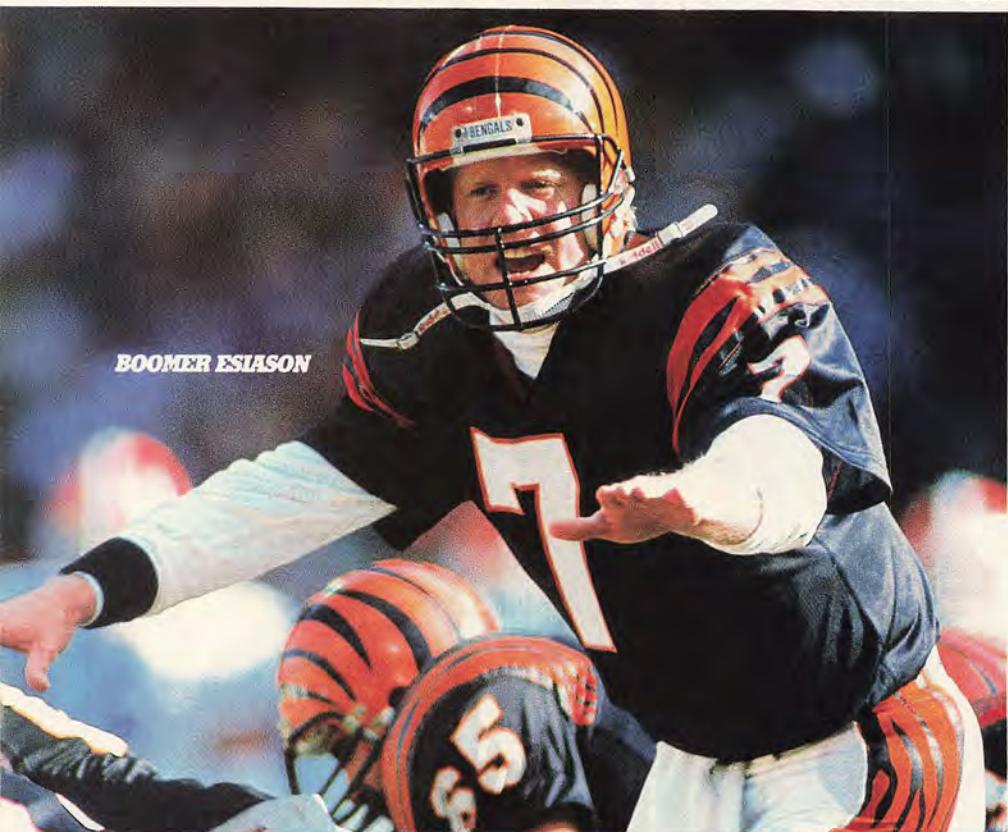
In the NFL, every key man can be replaced by another. Even retiring commissioner Pete Rozelle knows it is true.



MIKE SINGLETARY

Bob Rosato

INDISPENSABLE PLAYERS



BOOMER ESIASON

still had all-star tackles Dan Hampton and Steve McMichael playing in front of him, stuffing the run, keeping blockers away from him, allowing him to roam. No one realized it more than Singletary. "I've been blessed to play in Chicago behind those two," he said.

The triangle stayed intact throughout the season, providing a nucleus so strong that defensive coordinator Tobin was able to fill in successfully around the decaying edges with unsung rookies.

There are those who argue that right end Richard Dent is the one indispensable link in the Bears' lineup, which has been dominated by defense throughout the 1980s. "Dent is the one guy they couldn't lose and get to the Super Bowl," said one league personnel man. But Singletary's intensity, reflected by the TV cameras time and again in his eyes, gives the Bears the kind of leadership rival coaches only dream about. Without Dent, the Bears' pass rush suffers. Without Singletary, the whole team suffers.

"He's the best linebacker in football," Minnesota coach Jerry Burns said.

JERRY RICE

San Francisco 49ers

Statistics only tell part of the truth about the Most Valuable Player in the Super Bowl. Rice gave Super Bowl credit to quarterback Joe Montana before complaining that the media slighted him. But even before the Super Bowl, Montana said this about Rice:

"Our offense is not so much myself and Jerry Rice. It's more Jerry and our offensive line. It's hard to cover him for any length of time. I've never had a guy like Jerry."

The 49ers had just won Super Bowl XIX

when they traded up in the next draft to get Rice. In his second season, 1986, Rice caught 15 touchdown passes. In his third year, he caught 22. But the 49ers failed to win a single playoff game in Rice's first three seasons. Coincidentally, Rice failed to catch a touchdown pass in three playoff appearances in 1985-87. Then came 1988. Held to nine touchdown catches while hobbled by an ankle injury during the regular season, Rice exploded in the postseason. Against Minnesota, he caught three touchdown passes. Against Chicago, he caught two in frozen Soldier Field. Against Cincinnati in the Super Bowl, he caught one with a spectacular balancing act and set up the winner with two catches on the final drive. He finished with 11 receptions, including a one-hander, for 215 yards.

"Cincinnati is going to catch 'Rice-it's,'" San Francisco cornerback Tim McKyler had correctly predicted.

Statistics also show that Rice doesn't seem to mind who is throwing the passes, underscoring Montana's point. In 1986, eight of Rice's 15 TD catches came from Jack Kemp and one from Mike Moroski. Kemp threw a career-high 11 that year. In '87, eight of Rice's 22 TDs came from Steve Young, who threw 10 that season, prompting a controversy over who should start at quarterback.

With Rice on the receiving end, the controversy is closed.

BOOMER ESIASON

Cincinnati Bengals

The Bengals' quarterback was the player of the year in the NFL, not so much for what he did statistically but for what he didn't do. Although his numbers were impressive (28

touchdowns and a league-leading 97.4 passer rating), Esiason was able to lead his team to the Super Bowl because he handed off better than any other quarterback.

"What people don't understand is we're a running team," Esiason said.

There was a time when even Esiason had trouble accepting it, but the Bengals became the No. 1 running team in football, setting up Esiason's play-action passes. He didn't throw nearly so many times as Dan Marino and his completion percentage was sixth among the top 10 passers. But his average gain of 9.21 yards per pass attempt was tops in the league. Moreover, Esiason quit complaining, harnessed his ego, and assumed a leadership role rare even for quarterbacks. When coach Sam Wyche was down in the dumps before the season, afraid he might be fired, it was Esiason who invited him to a comedy club for some laughs. The same Esiason who was a vociferous leader of the player strike in 1987 yelled at teammates for not playing hard enough in a loss to Kansas City.

"One thing we've all had to understand this year is we've all had to put individual egos aside and do whatever it takes to win. I know that sounds ridiculous, but, fortunately, everyone has done this," Esiason said.

Just the same, in an era when quarterbacks are forced to listen to play messengers and offensive coordinators more than ever, it was a refreshing sight to behold Esiason barking plays at the line of scrimmage in the Bengals' no-huddle offense, leaving no doubt of who was in charge of the AFC champions.

CORNELIUS BENNETT

Buffalo Bills

Marv Levy doesn't want to single out an indispensable player, and it isn't necessary. Bennett distinguishes himself. When the Bills traded for Bennett midway through the 1987 season, he immediately defined the term "impact player." He allowed fellow rookie Shane Conlan to move to inside linebacker, and the results were spectacular. For the final eight games, Buffalo's sack stats went from two a game to three. The Bills recovered nine fumbles in those games after getting 11 in the previous 20. With Bennett starting the final seven games that season, the Bills allowed an average of 13 points. Not counting strike games, the Bills had been giving up 30 per game.

In the 26 games the Bills have played since Bennett joined them, including their first two playoff games since 1981, their record is 17-9. In the 26 games prior to Bennett's arrival, their record was 6-20.

"We jumped considerably as a performing team when he came," Levy said.

One more stat: teammate Bruce Smith got \$7.5 million for five years. The next knock at owner Ralph Wilson's door will be Bennett.

JIM EVERETT

Los Angeles Rams

Quarterbacks are the players most often tagged as responsible for the "Franchise." If Jim Everett isn't the Rams' franchise, he is at least responsible for more than one player on the roster.

Everett led the league in touchdown passes and the NFC in completions and passing



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INDISPENSABLE PLAYERS



yardage while leading the Rams into the playoffs a year ago. But forget that. In 1986, the Rams made a bold trade with the Houston Oilers, giving up two No. 1 draft choices, a No. 5, and two players for Everett.

Having Everett enabled the Rams to trade running back Eric Dickerson, another indispensable player suddenly made profitably dispensable by Everett. For Dickerson, the Rams got three No. 1 draft choices and three No. 2 draft choices in a three-way trade with Buffalo and Indianapolis. In the first installment, the Rams drafted receiver Aaron Cox, linebacker Fred Strickland, and running back Gaston Green, and got veteran running backs Greg Bell and Owen Gill. Cox averaged 21 yards a catch, Strickland showed promise of dominance, and Green had to wait his turn because Bell led the league's non-kickers in scoring and gained 1,212 yards. The second installment on the trade brought them another No. 1 (running back Cleveland Gary) and two Nos. 2s (linebacker Frank Stams and defensive back Darryl Henley) in the last draft.

Without Everett, none of this would be possible, not to mention practical.

JOHN L. WILLIAMS

Seattle Seahawks

He was the blocking back for Neal Anderson at Florida and was drafted as the blocking back for Curt Warner in Seattle. There isn't a better one in the league. But John L. soon proved much more than a blocker and in 1988 he was the Seahawks' MVP.

Not only did he become as effective a runner as Warner, averaging 4.6 yards per carry (compared with 3.9 for Warner), Williams led the club in pass receiving. It was the first time in Seattle franchise history that Steve Largent didn't lead the team in receiving. The 58 catches for 651 yards were higher in both categories than Largent's 39 for 645.

Williams handled the ball 247 times rushing and catching and recovered the only two fumbles he dropped. In the Seahawks' offense, it is crucial to control the ball and maintain a lead, because quarterback David Krieg is not a come-from-behind bomber. With the AFC West title on the line against the Los Angeles Raiders in the season finale, Williams caught seven passes for a team-record 180 yards and one touchdown to lead Seattle's victory while Warner was hobbled by a sore ankle.

Warner makes more money, Largent is the greatest pass receiver of all time, and Brian Bosworth still makes all the commercials. But John L. Williams is coach Chuck Knox's one indispensable man. If he went down, Knox would need three to replace him.

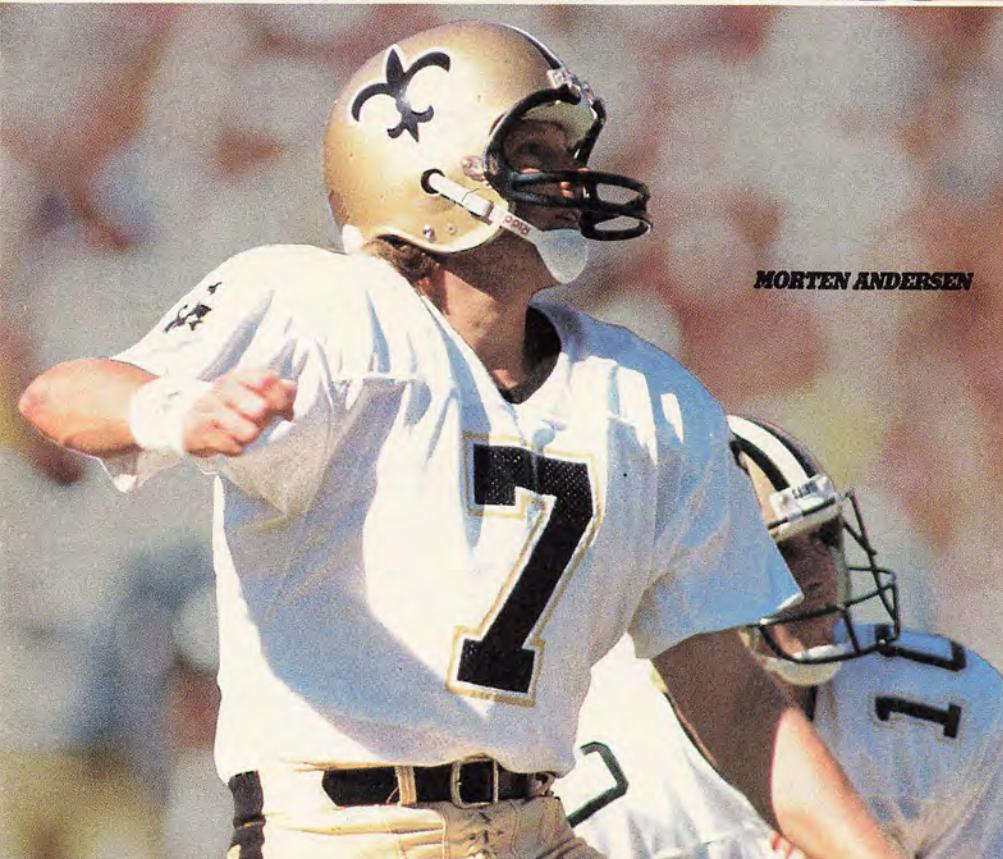
JOEY BROWNER

Minnesota Vikings

The Vikings sent a league-high nine players to the Pro Bowl and are generally considered the most talented club in the business. So how can a safety be deemed the star of stars? Because Joey Browner saves the Vikings for a living, that's how. He beat the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC wild-card game with two interceptions. When an opponent breaks into the secondary, if Browner doesn't make the tackle, the tackle often doesn't get made. That's why he plays on the kickoff team.

"He's on the kickoff team because I want

Al Messerschmidt



Robert Trinelli Jr.

him there," coach Jerry Burns said. "I told him, 'When you're on the kickoff team, I've got every assurance nobody will ever run one back for a touchdown.'"

Of their nine Pro Bowl players (five on defense), the Vikings complained that leading tackler and linebacker Jesse Solomon was slighted. But Browner is special.

"I'm sure that teams who play us, their No. 1 concern is Joey Browner. They've got to know where he is. They're as concerned about him in pass coverage as in support of the running game," Burns said. "He's as talented a player at strong safety as any player at any position in the league."

MORTEN ANDERSEN

New Orleans Saints

Place-kickers are football's next-to-least indispensable players—behind punters. Just look at the waiver wires. Then there is Morten Andersen, who single-footedly makes an average team good. Andersen suffered an off year last season, missing 10 field goals. When you miss a total of 32 in six previous seasons, 10 misses in one year is considered poor. But if it weren't for Andersen's kicks, the Saints still would be looking for their first winning season. Astonishing as that seems, their 12-3 record in 1987 would be 7-8 minus Andersen and their 10-6 record in 1988 would be 4-12.

Only once has he missed a final kick to win a game, and that was after he had made five

field goals in a 24-22 loss to San Francisco in 1987. True, Andersen blew a 29-yarder against the New York Giants that would have put the Saints in the last playoffs, but it was the first field goal under 30 yards Andersen had ever missed as a pro. His only other miss under 30 yards had been blocked.

"With the game on the line, I can't think of another kicker I'd rather have out there," coach Jim Mora said. "He's the best I've ever seen," GM Jim Finks said.

MIKE MUNCHAK/BRUCE MATTHEWS

Houston Oilers

This is not a copout. The Oiler guards are vital to the success of this talent-laden team. What about Pro Bowl quarterback Warren Moon, who had his best season? Or Pro Bowl back Mike Rozier, Houston's first 1,000-yard rusher since Earl Campbell?

Neither could be so effective without Munchak and Matthews, two first-round blockers with first-rate credentials. Matthews made the Pro Bowl for the first time last season, because he settled in at right guard for a full season after starting at all five offensive line spots during his first five years. With four-time Pro Bowler Munchak at left guard, Houston's pass protection and run blocking improved dramatically. After allowing 48 sacks in 1986 (and 30 in the 1987 strike year), the Oilers gave up only 24 last season. After finishing 19th in rushing in 1986 (14th in 1987), the

Oilers finished fourth in rushing in '88.

Is one better than the other? Is one more important, more indispensable? They come as a tandem, one unit weighing 560 in matching 280-pound sections. If Pro Bowl voters couldn't separate them, they belong together, which is fine with Moon and Rozier.

BERNIE KOSAR

Cleveland Browns

The quarterback gets too much credit when the team wins and too much blame when the team loses. But when he gets hurt, the coach gets blamed.

First, Kosar got hurt and the Browns still won. Next Gary Danielson and Mike Pagel got hurt and Don Strock played and still the Browns won. Kosar returned, then got hurt again and the Browns still won. After they lost in the playoffs, coach Marty Schottenheimer went to Kansas City.

Like the Bears, the Browns proved there may be no such thing as an indispensable player in football, not even a quarterback like Kosar, who is called the Franchise by the owner himself, Art Modell. Yet if you don't think Kosar is Cleveland's indispensable man, try to name another candidate. Try to name another player, period. Anybody. Ohioans might be able to do it. Frank Minnifield, perhaps? But as valuable as Minnifield is, he is not in the indispensable class of Kosar—or of any of the other players named here. □



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HALL OF FAME

Here's to the champions, the Hall of Fame's class of 1989. The four players to be inducted on August 5—Terry Bradshaw, Mel Blount, Art Shell, and Willie Wood—won a combined 12 Super Bowls.

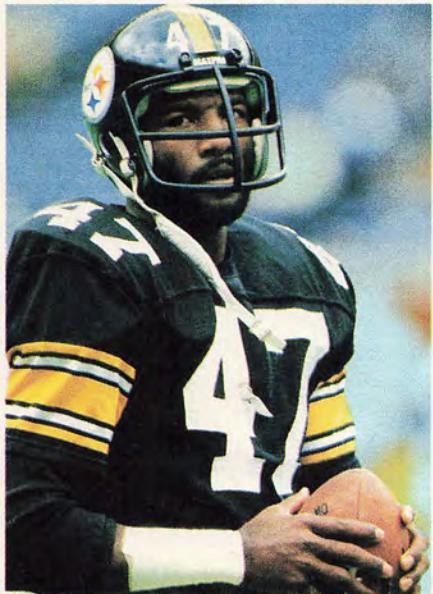
TERRY BRADSHAW & MEL BLOUNT

Quarterback Terry Bradshaw and cornerback Mel Blount were elected in their first year of eligibility, an honor accorded their former Pittsburgh Steeler teammates Joe Greene (in 1987) and Jack Ham (1988).

"This is a particularly good feeling because Terry and I came in together, we retired together, and now we go into the Hall of Fame together," said Blount, the director of player relations for the National Football League.

When Chuck Noll was hired in 1969 to rebuild the Pittsburgh Steelers, he made Joe Greene his first draft pick. Greene became the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year, but the Steelers won just one of 14 games that season. That entitled them to the No. 1 selection in the 1970 draft, and with it Noll chose Terry Bradshaw, an All-America from Louisiana Tech. Bradshaw started eight games, and the Steelers' record improved to 5-9, but he completed only 38 percent of his passes and suffered 24 interceptions.

continued



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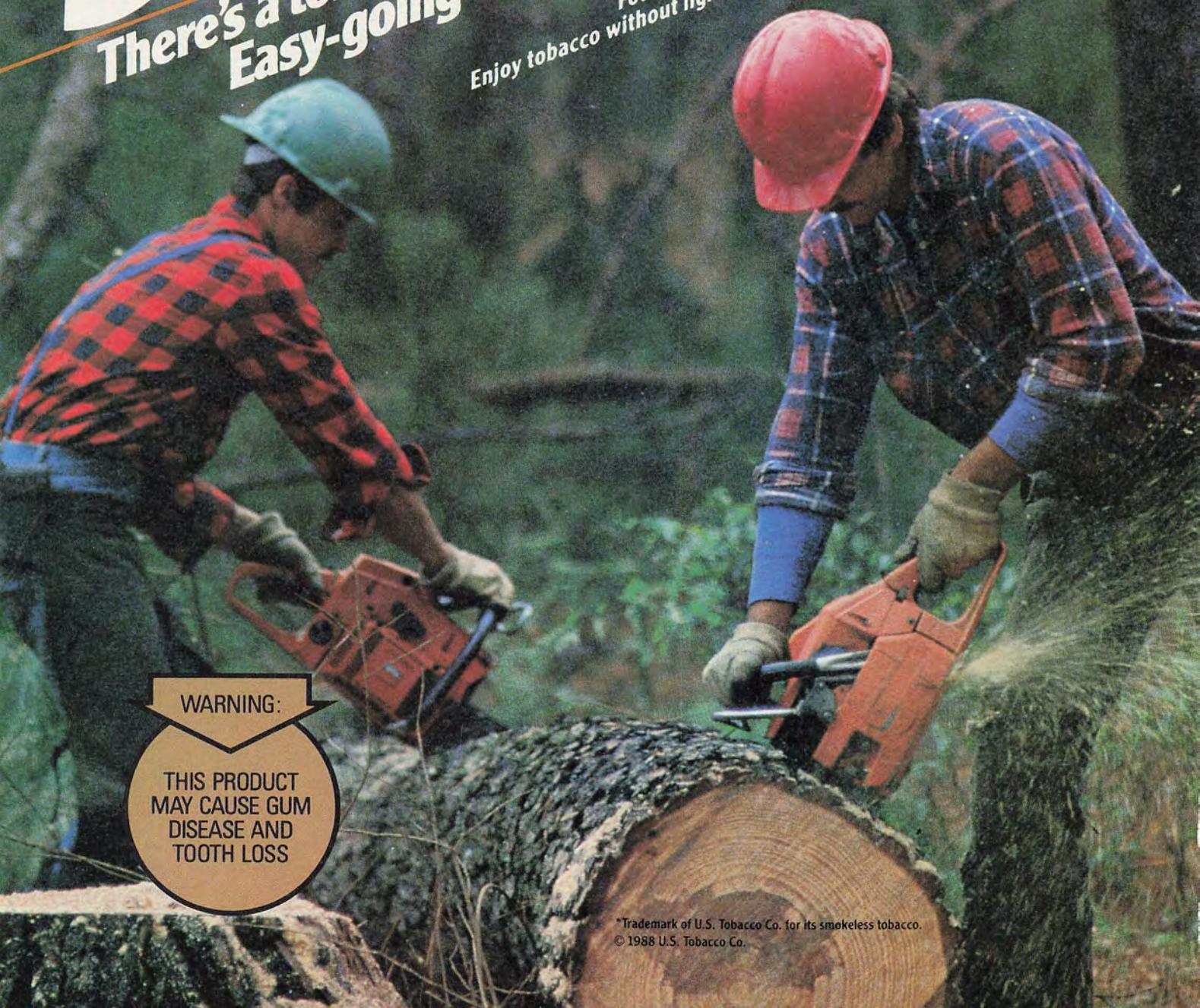
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HALL OF FAME

"My rookie year was a disaster," said Bradshaw. "I was totally unprepared for pro ball. I had no schooling on reading defenses. I had never studied the game films the way a quarterback should."

The Steelers improved further (6-8) the following season, and in 1972 they captured their first division title in 40 years. In the opening-round playoff game against the Oakland Raiders, Bradshaw, John Fuqua, and Franco Harris collaborated on the "Immaculate Reception," a deflected pass that was converted into the winning touchdown.

A shoulder separation sidelined Bradshaw for part of 1973, and in '74 Joe Gilliam began the season as the starting quarterback. But after six games, Noll switched to Bradshaw, allowing him to call his own plays.

"When I got the confidence from [Noll], I became a pro quarterback," said Bradshaw. "Prior to that, I wasn't making any progress. I knew that when I made mistakes I was going to be benched. But when [Noll] said, 'Go make your mistakes, we're going to win with you,' that's when I became a quarterback."

Mel Blount, from Southern University, was taken by Pittsburgh in the third round in the 1970 draft. He started nine games his rookie season as a replacement for the injured John Rowser, but like Bradshaw he did not achieve success immediately. Burned for three touchdowns in one game by Miami's Paul Warfield, Blount struggled in 1971 to the extent that he admitted, "I thought about quitting. I thought a whole lot about it."

Blount did not quit. Instead, he made a remarkable turnaround the next season, his first as a full-time starter. He did not allow a single touchdown reception.

"I owe it all to [defensive backfield coach] Bud Carson," he said. "He gave me something no one else on the staff ever did—he helped me believe in myself."

Between their talents and newfound confidence, Bradshaw and Blount helped create perhaps pro football's greatest team. The Steelers won their division in 1974 and the

AFC championship, then defeated the Minnesota Vikings, 16-6, in their first Super Bowl. In that game Blount intercepted a Fran Tarkenton pass on the goal line to prevent a score. They defended their title with a 21-17 victory over the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl X. The Steelers won the division in 1976 and '77, but lost in the playoffs both times. They beat Dallas, 35-31, in Super Bowl XIII as Bradshaw threw for 318 yards and a record four touchdowns. They followed up with an unprecedented fourth Super Bowl triumph, 31-19 over the Los Angeles Rams in which Bradshaw passed for 309 yards and two TDs to win his second straight MVP award.

Commenting on his election to the Hall of Fame, Blount said: "If the scales were balanced, there was nobody I couldn't cover. That's what motivated me, drove me to be as good as I was. I was in front of 50,000 people in the stands and millions on TV. I didn't want to be embarrassed."

The league's Most Valuable Defensive Player in 1975, Blount sat out just one game in 14 years, went to five Pro Bowls, recovered 13 fumbles and returned two for touchdowns, and intercepted 57 passes (the most by a Steeler and tied for seventh place in NFL history) for 736 yards and two TDs. "I wanted to

set the standards for my position," said

Blount, who retired in 1983. Bradshaw hung up his cleats the same year, having posted these numbers: 2,025

completions in 3,901 attempts for 27,989 yards and 212 touchdowns, plus 444 rushes for 2,257 yards and 32 TDs. He holds these passing records: 932 yards and nine touchdowns in four Super Bowls and 3,833 yards and 30 TDs in 19 postseason games.

WILLIE WOOD

The Steelers and the Raiders won six Super Bowls in a seven-year stretch (1975-81), but the Green Bay Packers were the dominant pro football team of the sixties. They appeared in six NFL title games and won five of them, including Super Bowls I and II. Willie Wood, the premier free safety of his time, is the 17th Packer and the 11th member of the 1961 championship team to be elected to the Hall.

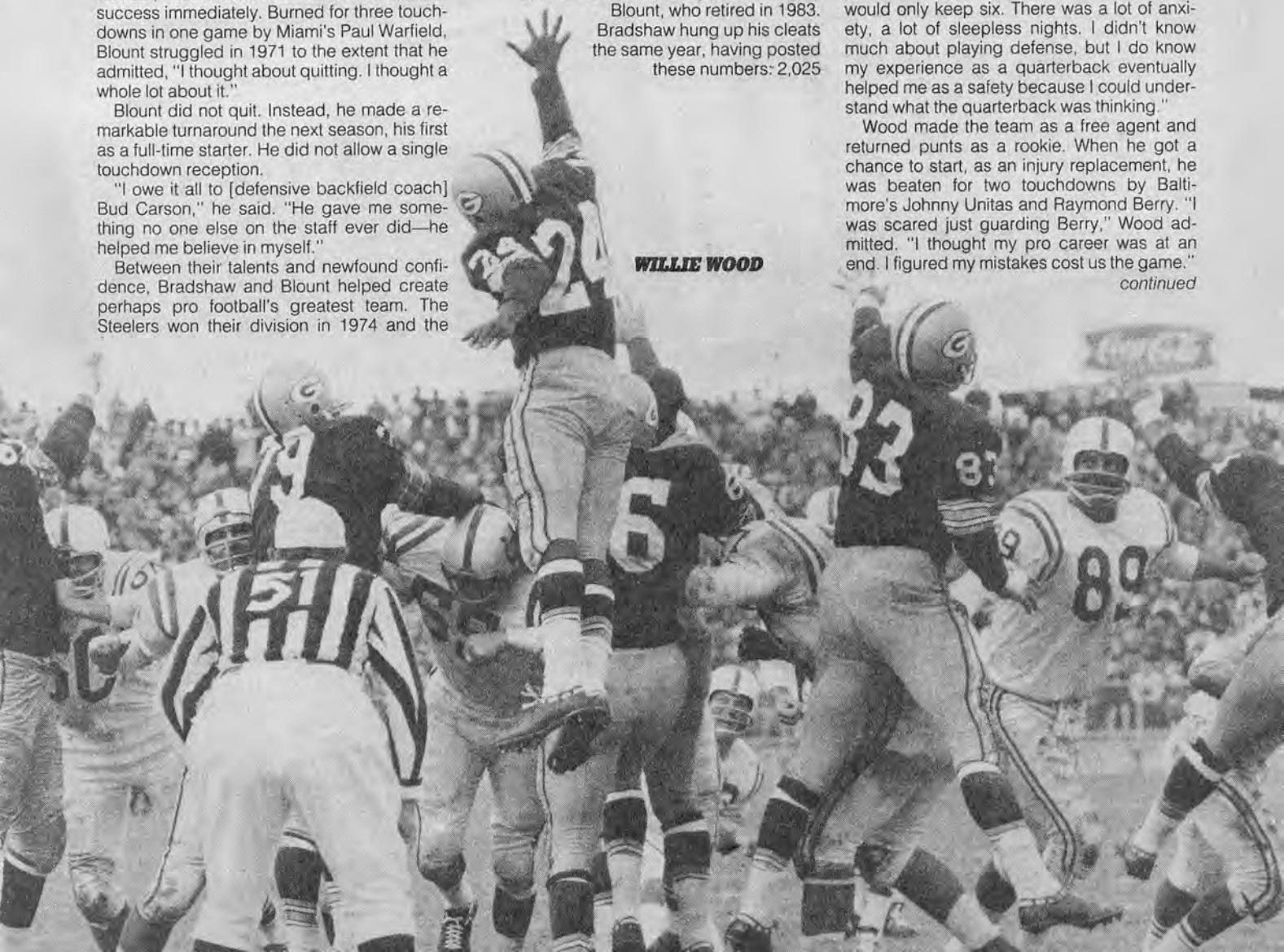
A quarterback and defensive back in college at Southern Cal, Wood was thought to be too small at the time (5-10, 160) to play offense in pro ball. He had also struggled with an injured collarbone in his junior and senior seasons. So when he was not drafted in 1960, Wood wrote to four clubs (New York, Cleveland, Los Angeles, and the Packers) to request a tryout. Only Green Bay, where Vince Lombardi was starting his second year as coach, responded.

"We had 24 defensive backs in camp that first year," said Wood. "We knew the Packers would only keep six. There was a lot of anxiety, a lot of sleepless nights. I didn't know much about playing defense, but I do know my experience as a quarterback eventually helped me as a safety because I could understand what the quarterback was thinking."

Wood made the team as a free agent and returned punts as a rookie. When he got a chance to start, as an injury replacement, he was beaten for two touchdowns by Baltimore's Johnny Unitas and Raymond Berry. "I was scared just guarding Berry," Wood admitted. "I thought my pro career was at an end. I figured my mistakes cost us the game."

continued

WILLIE WOOD



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2.	DAN MARINO	6	3100	1866	23,856	196	103	91.5
3.	Otto Graham	10	2626	1464	23,584	174	135	86.6
4.	BOOMER ESIASON	5	1830	1038	14,825	98	65	86.2
5.	DAVE KRIEG	9	2344	1358	17,549	148	96	85.5
6.	KEN O'BRIEN	5	1990	1183	14,243	84	50	85.0
7.	Roger Staubach	11	2958	1685	22,700	153	109	83.4
8.	NEIL LOMAX	8	3153	1817	22,771	136	90	82.7
9.	Sonny Jurgensen	18	4262	2433	32,224	255	189	82.6
10.	Len Dawson	19	3741	2136	28,711	239	183	82.6
11.	Ken Anderson	16	4475	2654	32,838	197	160	81.9
12.	DANNY WHITE	13	2950	1761	21,959	155	132	81.7
13.	Bart Starr	16	3149	1808	24,718	152	138	80.5
14.	JIM McMAHON	7	1513	874	11,203	67	56	80.4
15.	Fran Tarkenton	18	6467	3686	47,003	342	266	80.4
16.	Dan Fouts	15	5604	3297	43,040	254	242	80.2
17.	Bert Jones	10	2551	1430	18,190	124	101	78.2
18.	Johnny Unitas	18	5186	2830	40,239	290	253	78.2
19.	Frank Ryan	13	2133	1090	16,042	149	111	77.6
20.	Joe Theismann	12	3602	2044	25,206	160	138	77.4

LEADING SCORERS

rank	player	yrs	td.	pat.	fg.	pts.
1.	George Blanda	26	9	943	335	2002
2.	Jan Stenerud	19	0	580	373	1699
3.	Lou Groza	21	1	810	264	1608
4.	Jim Turner	16	1	521	304	1439
5.	Mark Moseley	16	0	482	300	1382
6.	Jim Bakken	17	0	534	282	1380
7.	Fred Cox	15	0	519	282	1365
8.	PAT LEAHY	15	0	467	241	1190
9.	CHRIS BAHR	15	0	461	224	1133
10.	Gino Cappelletti	13	0	350	176	1130
11.	Ray Wersching	11	42	350	221	1122
12.	Don Cockroft	15	0	456	222	1080
13.	Garo Yepremian	13	0	432	216	1074
14.	Bruce Gossett	14	0	444	210	1031
15.	Sam Baker	11	0	374	219	977
16.	Rafael Septien	15	2	428	179	960
17.	Lou Michaels	10	0	420	180	955
18.	NICK LOWERY	13	1	386	187	907
19.	Roy Gerela	10	0	304	201	903
20.	JIM BREECH	11	0	351	184	897
		10	0	381	172	897

LEADING RECEIVERS

rank	player	yrs.	no.	yds.	avg.	td.
1.	STEVE LARGENT	13.	791	12,686	16.0	97
2.	Charlie Joiner	18.	750	12,146	16.2	65
3.	Charley Taylor	13.	649	9110	14.0	79
4.	Don Maynard	15.	633	11,834	18.7	88
5.	Raymond Berry	13.	631	9275	14.7	68
6.	OZZIE NEWSOME	11.	610	7416	12.2	44
7.	JAMES LOFTON	11.	599	11,085	18.5	54
8.	Harold Carmichael	14.	590	8985	15.2	79
9.	Fred Biletnikoff	14.	589	8974	15.2	76
10.	Harold Jackson	16.	579	10,372	17.9	76
11.	ART MONK	9.	576	7979	13.9	39
12.	Lionel Taylor	10.	567	7195	12.7	45
13.	WES CHANDLER	11.	559	8966	16.0	56
14.	Lance Alworth	11.	542	10,266	18.9	85
15.	Kellen Winslow	10.	541	6741	12.5	45
16.	John Stallworth	14.	537	8723	16.2	63
17.	Bobby Mitchell	11.	521	7954	15.3	65
18.	Nat Moore	13.	510	7546	14.8	74
19.	STANLEY MORGAN	12.	506	9866	19.5	64
19T.	Dwight Clark	9.	506	6750	13.3	48

LEADING RUSHERS

rank	player	yrs	att	yds	avg	td
1.	Walter Payton	13.	3838	16,726	4.4	110
2.	TONY DORSETT	12.	2936	12,739	4.3	77
3.	Jim Brown	9.	2359	12,312	5.2	106
4.	Franco Harris	13.	2949	12,120	4.1	91
5.	John Riggins	14.	2916	11,352	3.9	104
6.	O. J. Simpson	11.	2404	11,236	4.7	61
7.	ERIC DICKERSON	6.	2136	9915	4.6	75
8.	Joe Perry	16.	1929	9723	5.0	71
9.	Earl Campbell	8.	2187	9407	4.3	74
10.	Jim Taylor	10.	1941	8597	4.4	83
11.	O. J. ANDERSON	10.	1949	8294	4.3	55
12.	Larry Csonka	11.	1891	8081	4.3	64
13.	Mike Pruitt	11.	1844	7378	4.0	51
14.	Leroy Kelly	10.	1727	7274	4.2	74
15.	George Rogers	7.	1692	7176	4.2	54
16.	MARCUS ALLEN	13.	1571	6803	4.3	61
17.	John Henry Johnson	8.	1525	6794	4.5	28
18.	FREEMAN McNEIL	9.	1540	6789	4.4	45
19.	Wilbert Montgomery	9.	1561	6702	4.3	71
20.	Chuck Muncie					

PASSES ATTEMPTED

		PASSES ATTEMPTED	PASSES COMPLETED
1.	Fran Tarkenton	6467	3686
2.	Dan Fouts	5604	3297
3.	Johnny Unitas	5186	2830
4.	Jim Hart	5076	2654
5.	John Hadl	4687	2593
6.	Roman Gabriel	4498	2433
7.	John Brodie	4491	2427
8.	Ken Anderson	4475	2366
9.	JOE FERGUSON	4421	2363
10.	Y. A. Tittle	4395	2323
11.	Norm Snead	4353	2276
12.	Sonny Jurgensen	4262	2270
13.	RON JAWORSKI	4007	2215
14.	Terry Bradshaw	3901	2136
15.	Ken Stabler	3793	2053
16.	Craig Morton	3786	2044
17.	Joe Namath	3762	2025
18.	Len Dawson	3741	2011
19.	Terry Bradshaw	3701	
20.	Jim Plunkett		

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

		TOUCHDOWN PASSES	YARDS PASSING
1.	Fran Tarkenton	342	47,003
2.	Dan Fouts	290	43,040
3.	Johnny Unitas	255	40,239
4.	Jim Hart	254	34,665
5.	John Hadl	244	33,513
6.	Y. A. Tittle	242	33,070
7.	Ken Anderson	236	32,838
8.	Sonny Jurgensen	214	32,224
9.	John Brodie	209	31,548
10.	Roman Gabriel	201	30,797
11.	Norm Snead	197	29,444
12.	JOE FERGUSON	196	29,263
13.	Len Dawson	196	28,711
14.	Terry Bradshaw	196	27,989
15.	Ken Stabler	194	27,938
16.	Craig Morton	193	27,908
17.	RON JAWORSKI	192	27,805
18.	Joe Namath	190	27,663
19.	JOE MONTANA	190	27,533
20.	George Blanda		26,920

Active players in 1988 in CAPS. Hall of Fame members in italics.

HALL OF FAME

continued from page 49

Wood's career was just beginning, though. He led the NFL in returns in 1961 with a 16.1-yard average and was promoted to first-string safety, a job he held for 11 years. He had a league-high nine interceptions in 1962 and 48 in all for 699 yards and two touchdowns at the time of his retirement in 1971. A big-play performer, Wood's most memorable moment came in the first Super Bowl. With Green Bay leading Kansas City, 14-10, early in the third period, Wood intercepted a Len Dawson pass and returned it 40 yards, to the Chiefs' 5-yard line. Elijah Pitts then ran the ball in for a touchdown and the Packers went on to win, 35-10.

ART SHELL

The third ex-Raider in as many years (after Fred Biletnikoff in 1988 and Gene Upshaw in '87) to be elected to the Hall of Fame, Art Shell was a third-round pick from Maryland-Eastern Shore in the 1968 draft. He performed on the special teams his first two years before becoming a starting tackle. But once in the line-up, Shell almost never left. He played in 207 regular-season games, including 156 straight during one stretch, in his 15-year career. He teamed with Upshaw, a guard, to form a formidable left side of the offensive line. During Shell's tenure the Raiders appeared in 24 postseason games, including eight AFL/AFC championships and two Super Bowls. Against Minnesota in Super Bowl XI, Shell enjoyed his finest moment. He completely shut out (no tackles or assists) his opponent, defensive end Jim Marshall, in Oakland's 32-14 victory.

"When somebody told me I had a perfect game, I was shocked," Shell said afterward. "I had no idea Marshall had not been in on even one play. I was too busy to keep track. Play-by-play, quarter-by-quarter, I was totally involved in doing the best job I could."

Shell, who earned his way to eight Pro Bowls, is still being entrusted with the Raiders' offensive line—as an assistant coach.



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ROGER CRAIG'S GOAL RUSH *continued from page 18*

hoisting one of his brothers or sisters or a piece of furniture over his head. "Scared me to death," his mother said.

He showed the same sort of zeal at Nebraska. But as blocking backs usually are, he was so underappreciated he was almost anonymous, particularly when it came to the pro draft. When he was chosen by the 49ers out of the class of 1983—the one that produced John Elway, Dan Marino, Eric Dickerson, Jim Kelly, and Curt Warner—San Francisco fans wondered who he was.

It didn't take Craig long to establish his own identity in San Francisco, however. For five seasons with the 49ers, he was a fullback who blocked and received and sometimes ran. From the start, he did all three well, particularly in 1985, when he topped 1,000 yards in rushing and receiving. But he was yet to reach full bloom as a multi-purpose back.

In 1986, he severely injured a hip in the third game of the season, against Miami. "It was separated and hurt terribly all the rest of the season," Craig said, "and the anti-inflammatory drugs the doctors gave me for the pain made me anemic and gave me an ulcer, so I had to stop taking them."

Not surprisingly, though, he did not stop playing, and he did better on one good leg than most backs do on two. "I gained more than 800 yards rushing and more than 600 receiving," he said, "but I couldn't really run. I never discussed it with the media because I didn't want to sound like a crybaby, and I never gave up. But some games I was just out

there. It was like I was being tested as a human being."

There was another test in the NFL strike year in 1987. Walsh decided to move Craig from fullback to halfback. "I was effective at 225 pounds," he said, "but I didn't feel comfortable. I told Bill that if I was going to play halfback, I'd have to lose 15 pounds. He seemed surprised, but he went along with it."

The drop in weight was difficult for him, though. "I went down to 2,500 calories a day, which is barely eating," said Craig. "I had to give up oatmeal cookies and ice cream and a lot of other things I loved, but I feel very comfortable now. I've been able to maintain my weight at about 212 pounds, and I feel very strong there. When other guys get tired, I'm getting stronger. When other guys let up, I just keep attacking. I love a challenge."

Often during his remarkable 1988 season, Craig proved too much of a challenge for defenders. Against the Rams on a 100-degree afternoon, October 16 at Anaheim Stadium, Craig rushed for 190 yards, including a 46-yard touchdown run. But it was the way he did it that was most memorable. He went over, under, around, and through the Rams en route to a 24-21 49er victory. When it was over, the battered Rams praised Craig.

"My God, it was a frightening sight," said defensive back Johnnie Johnson. "We felt like we couldn't stop him. When you hit him, you only seem to get shoulder pads and knees." Said tackle Greg Meisner, "When he's running north and south, he's like a locomotive." And

safety Vince Newsome called him "the best total back in the league."

Craig's style, of course, takes a frightful toll on his own body, too. To stay as near-perfectly tuned and toned as he can, he visits two chiropractors four times a week during the season, and is kneaded, pounded, and generally rearranged three times a week in treatments by a massage therapist at his Portola Valley home. Craig, who practices the same

His 1,502 yards rushing and 534 receiving earned Roger Craig the 1988 NFL Offensive Player of the Year.

way he plays—all out—says, "You've got to treat your body like an automobile. When a car breaks down, you have to repair it. When your body gets out of alignment, you have to get it back in line. I keep my spine in line, so when I step on the field I don't worry about injuries."

Craig also changed his running style a little last season. "I want to deliver the blow first now, before I get hit, the way Walter Payton used to do it," he said. "He's the prime example of that style. It carried him awfully well over 13 years in the NFL."

While he's toiling to keep his body in shape, Craig exercises his mind, too. "I do a lot of visualizing, especially when I'm training," he

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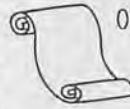
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said. "I see myself catching the ball, carrying it, using my blockers."

The 49er offensive linemen love to block for Craig. "He inspires you to do something extra because you never know what he's going to do," said tackle Steve Wallace. "He's always high-stepping, and before you know it, he's 20 yards downfield. It gives you a lot of motivation because when you see him playing that hard, you want to play harder."

"I never blocked for a running back I enjoyed more than Roger," said center Randy Cross, who retired after last season. "He's a lineman's kind of back. God knows he appreciates what linemen do."

Craig is quick to praise his blockers, particularly the man who fills the role he himself filled for so long: fullback Tom Rathman. "I couldn't do much without Tom," Craig says.

In addition to the power and the high-stepping and the incredible intensity, the feature people always notice about Craig is his eyes. "There are only two guys I've seen where their eyes bulge out: Roger and [Bears' linebacker] Mike Singletary," said running back Doug DuBose, who played with Craig at Nebraska and with the 49ers. "At Nebraska, they'd run pictures in the paper, and all you'd see were the whites of his eyes. People used to give Roger a hard time about it. They said he ran scared. But I'll tell you, I learned very fast he doesn't run scared. Every play of the game, he's hyped. Even before a game, he'll hit you on the shoulder pads. He thinks it's just a tap, but it's like getting hit by a linebacker."

Their teams met in the NFC championship last season, and Singletary agreed. "Whether I'm across the line of scrimmage from him or looking at him on film, Roger is always going 100 miles an hour," Singletary said. "You can see the enthusiasm in his motion. It's really something special, something you don't see a whole lot these days."

It's unlikely Craig will slow down anytime soon. If anything, he's picking up the pace. In the off-season, he took only two weeks off instead of the usual month. "Because our season ended later," he said, "I wanted to get back into training, stay ahead of schedule."

Increasingly, the 49ers, who have long counted on Craig, are looking up to him, too. Last fall, for the second time, he won the Len Eshmont Award, given each year to the 49er who exemplifies the "inspirational and courageous" play of original 49er Eshmont.

Now that the charismatic Cross has retired, Craig figures that he and Montana will have to be even more vocal for the offense—and since Montana isn't the most outspoken guy in the world, he knows most of the load may fall on him. One more challenge he's happy to tackle. "I used to let my work speak for itself," he said. "The outgoing part, the verbal part, is new, but I welcome that role because it's nice to have players look up to you, especially the younger guys.

His only worry at the moment is a team concern. "I know because of the kind of year we had, teams will be that much more hungry to beat us," he said. "I hope we'll come back just

as hungry, and not get complacent. But because of the changes in coaching staff, with George Seifert replacing Bill Walsh, they're going to make us work. We were only 6-5 at one point last season and pulled it together. I don't see any reason why we can't do that again, if we have to."

He doesn't plan to change much in his football persona, or in his perpetual-motion lifestyle. He runs for a lot of people, mainly his wife, Vernessia, and his kids, daughters Rometta and Damesha and son Rogdrick. "My kids come first—I want them to have the finer things I didn't have as a child," he said. But he also runs for his late dad and mom, his teammates, his coaches, his fans, himself. And he runs—straight ahead and without apology for how some people might take his brashness—for football immortality: the Hall of Fame.

"Getting there is like a stepladder," he says, "step by step, everything in stages. You can't climb a mountain in a day. It takes days and days and days to get to the top."

He figures he's fit for the ascent. "Knock on wood, I feel as healthy as I ever have, even after a brutal season," he said. "And as long as I'm having fun, I plan to keep playing. But the competition is so hard and the risk of injury so high. And the way I play, I know there will be lots of wear and tear. My goal is to play at peak level for another two or three years, and play at least 10 years total. I think I'll know when it's time to quit. I know that if something happens to me and I can't play anymore, I can always say I gave it my all."

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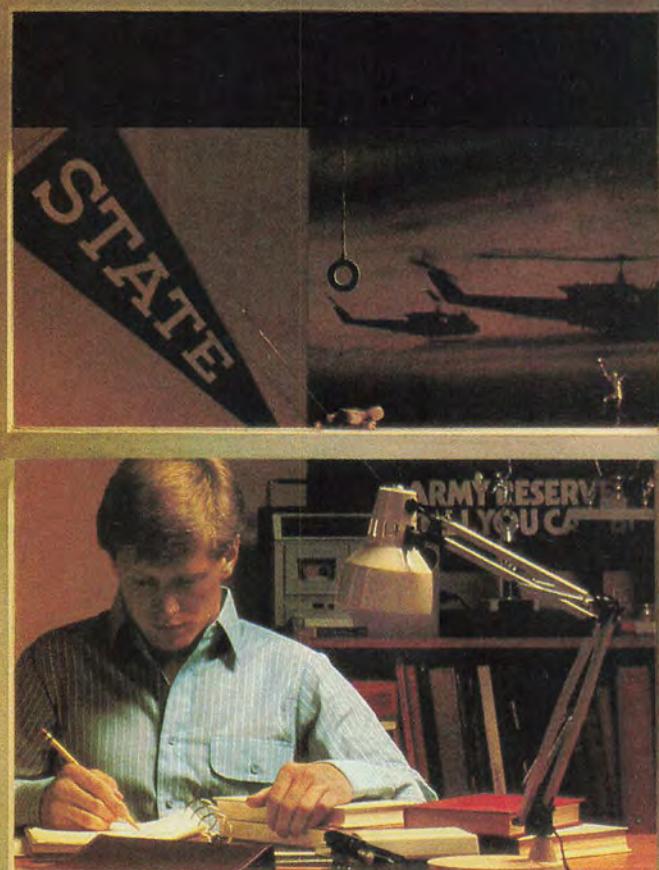
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**The
Cincinnati Bengals'
Ickey Woods
went to the
head of**

**THE
CLASS OF
1988**

The best rookie in the National Football League in 1988 wore a ponytail. His nickname was Ickey. He gained fame by doing a little dance after scoring a touchdown. By the time his team made it to the Super Bowl, his likeness was emblazoned on beach towels and boxer shorts and he became very rich. What a country!

Elbert "Ickey" Woods made an impact on and off the field in 1988. The 6-0, 230-pound fullback set rookie records for the Cincinnati Bengals with 1,066 rushing yards and 15 touchdowns. He helped his team win the AFC championship after it was picked to finish third in the Central Division. Along the way, Woods more than doubled his salary and signing bonus by cashing in on an engaging personality and riding the wave of a marketable touchdown dance dubbed the "Ickey Shuffle."

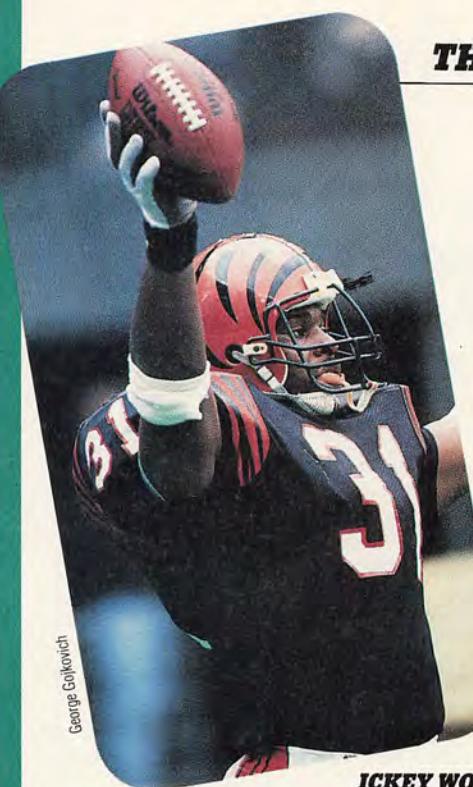
"He had a great year," said Bengals' coach Sam Wyche, "and what impressed me the most was that he handled it well. A lot of rookies don't."

Like many of the important rookies of 1988, Woods was not a first-round draft choice. Cincinnati made him the fourth pick of the second round. Even at that bargain price, some questioned the wisdom of the Bengals' choice on the day of the draft. Woods had produced only as a senior at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, when he led the nation with 1,658 yards. Prior to that he had run for 350 yards in three years. And many wondered how long Woods's ponytail would survive before the conservative Paul Brown, the 80-year-old patriarch of the Bengals, snipped it. Brown, however, set the tone for a smooth relationship when he said of Woods's hair, "If it helps him play, give him a ribbon, tie it up, and let's go." And off they went to the Super Bowl.

There were other rookie stars ignored in the first round: New York Jets' safety Erik McMillan, a third-

by TONY GROSSI
CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

THE CLASS OF 1988



George Gojkovich

ICKEY WOODS

round pick, led the AFC and was second overall in the league with eight interceptions. Teammate James Hasty, also a third-round pick, contributed five interceptions. Cleveland Browns' defensive tackle Michael Dean Perry, a second-rounder, led his team with six quarterback sacks. Detroit Lions' linebacker Chris Spielman, another second-rounder, set a club record with 153 tackles. There were also two 10th-round picks who became starters for their teams: Indianapolis Colts' linebacker O'Brien Alston and Cleveland Browns' safety Brian Washington.

Without even considering a single first-round choice, one could surmise that 1988 wasn't a bad year for rookies. Every year we are told the draft is lacking this kind of player or that, and every year an exceptional number of productive players emerges.

"In retrospect, I guess a lot of them did contribute rather quickly," said Dick Steinberg, the New England Patriots' director of player development. "We have been one of the teams that keep saying there hasn't been a real good draft since 1984. And I think there are logical explanations for that. The college-age student population is down. There are more injuries in college than ever before. Proposition 48 is cutting out players. Also, we feel that with the exposure college basketball is receiving, there are a lot of linebacker-sized athletes going to that sport. But there's always going to be players out there. I'd have to say, for value per round, Ickey Woods was clearly the best pick of the draft last year."

Steinberg's own selection of running back John Stephens from Northwestern (La.) State was also a good one. The Patriots' No. 1 draft choice led all rookies with 1,168 yards in 297 carries. The 6-1, 220-pounder fumbled only two times and scored four touchdowns as the Patriots won seven of 10

games after Stephens was promoted to the starting lineup.

"Looking back at it, I should have gotten him in there and emphasized him much earlier than I did," said New England head coach Raymond Berry. "He's got great speed and strength and is a competitor. And he really does an excellent job of protecting the football. He's an extremely likable guy. Guys just love to block for him."

Woods and Stephens were at the top of the 1988 rookie class. Not far behind were:

THE NEXT WAVE

• ERIK McMILLAN, New York Jets

The 195-pound free safety from Missouri made the Jets' starting lineup right out of training camp and never looked back. He stole three Dan Marino passes in his eighth professional game. "I knew I could play in the NFL after that," said McMillan, whose father, Ernie, was an all-pro offensive tackle for the St. Louis Cardinals in the 1960s.

"My father helped me with all the little things that I didn't understand very well," Erik said. "It's hard to get specific on what he did for me, but it made me feel a lot better to talk to him and get advice from him."

McMillan gained 168 yards on his eight interceptions and returned two, including one of 55 yards, for touchdowns.

• KEITH JACKSON, Philadelphia Eagles

Hidden as a blocking tight end in Barry Switzer's wishbone offense at Oklahoma University, Jackson caught only 62 passes in his four-year college career. Nevertheless, after the Eagles made Jackson the 13th pick of the first round, head coach Buddy Ryan said, "This kid is a once-in-a-decade-type player. He's like that guy [Kellen] Winslow who played out in San Diego."

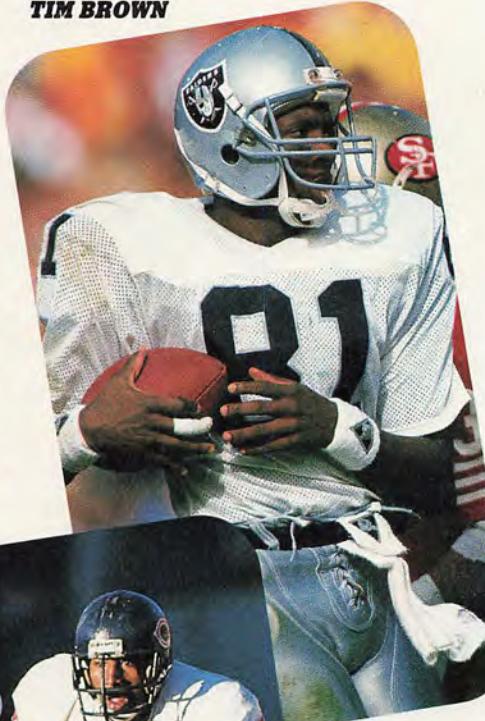
Jackson, a 6-2, 250-pounder, made Ryan a prophet when he teamed with quarterback

Randall Cunningham for a club-record 81 catches. That figure was highest among tight ends and sixth overall in the NFL. Jackson scored six touchdowns, but he was not satisfied with his 10.7 average on 869 yards. With confidence bordering on cockiness, Jackson hit it off well with Ryan, who referred to his new offensive threat as "the big rook." After fulfilling his goal by being named to the Pro Bowl, Jackson said, "There wasn't a tight end I saw that could outplay me. When I knew I was playing with Randall and knew he was gonna get the rock to me, I felt there was no way I wasn't going all the way from the first game."

• BENNIE BLADES & CHRIS SPIELMAN, Detroit Lions

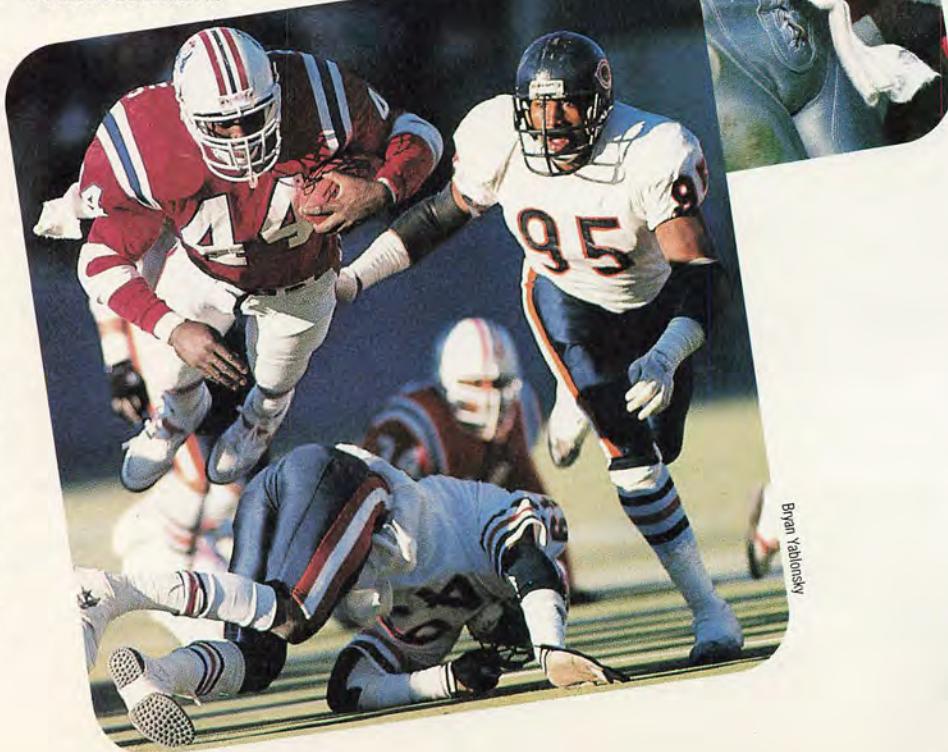
Detroit's first- and second-round draft picks helped improve the Lions from 25th to 18th in team defense. Blades, a 210-pound safety from the University of Miami, shored up

TIM BROWN



Dave Stock/Allsport USA

JOHN STEPHENS



Brian Lawdermilk

the Detroit secondary and lived up to his billing as a hard hitter with blazing speed. Blades made 14 starts and finished fifth on the club with 102 tackles. He also recovered four fumbles, had two interceptions, and made one sack.

Spielman was an All-America at Ohio State but was supposed to be too small to make a similar impact in the NFL. The 6-0, 235-pound inside linebacker proved the skeptics wrong. He was everywhere for the Lions, starting all 16 games and leading the team in tackles.

• **TIM BROWN, Los Angeles Raiders**
The 1988 Heisman Trophy winner from Notre Dame was a triple threat for the Raiders. Brown led a stable of brilliant receivers on his team with 43 catches for 725 yards and five touchdowns. He also was tops in the entire NFL in kickoff returns with a 26.8-yard average. His 97-yard return for a touchdown was the second-longest play in the league. Brown was ninth in the AFC with a 9.1-yard punt-return average. How active was he? Brown's 41 kickoff returns and 49 punt returns were also league highs.

• **AUNDRAY BRUCE & MARCUS COTTON, Atlanta Falcons**

Bruce was the first pick of the entire draft; Cotton was the first pick of the second round. Neither was able to suit up for all 16 games, but both were noticeable when in the game. Bruce, of Auburn, led the Falcons and was first among rookie linebackers with six sacks and added 70 tackles and two interceptions. Cotton, another fine linebacker from Southern Cal, had five sacks.

"Aundray just got better and better," said Falcons' head coach Marion Campbell. "He missed a lot of work in training camp [due to a contract holdout] and then came in and strained a knee. And I lost Marcus for about the last half of the season with a knee injury. Aundray missed all the three-point pass-rush work in camp, which he had never experienced before, and we had to teach him as we went along. This year, we hope to

ERIK McMILLAN



AI MESSERSCHMIDT

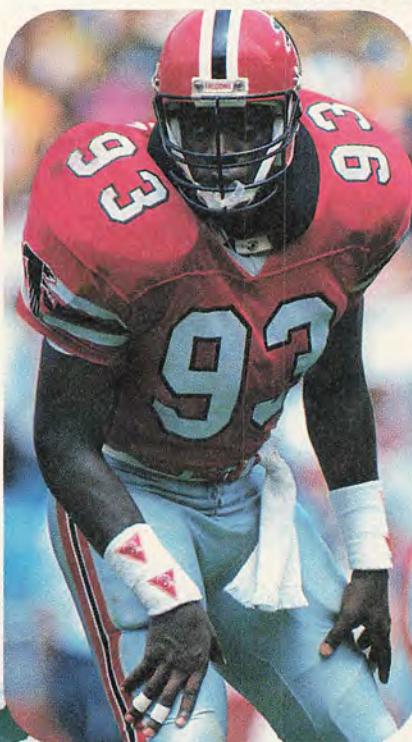
have him down in a three-point from the beginning, and we hope that's where he'll emerge. Marcus was a pass rusher in college, and he showed pass-rush capabilities right away."

TWENTY OF NOTE

• **THURMAN THOMAS, Buffalo Bills**—The 40th overall pick proved he was totally recovered from the knee problems he suffered in his junior year at Oklahoma State. He led the Bills with 881 yards on 207 carries (4.3 average) and scored two touchdowns. He added 18 catches for 208 yards.

• **MICHAEL DEAN PERRY & BRIAN WASHINGTON, Cleveland Browns**—In part-time duty, Perry tied for the club lead with six quarterback sacks. The second-round pick from Clemson had a better rookie season

AUNDRAY BRUCE



Bob Rosato

than his more celebrated brother, William, had in 1986. Washington, a 10th-round pick, was a backup player his final two years at Nebraska, but he started 15 games for the Browns and turned in three interceptions, including one for a touchdown of 75 yards.

• **CHRIS CHANDLER & O'BRIEN ALSTON, Indianapolis Colts**—After the second week of the season, the third-round pick from Washington unexpectedly zoomed from No. 3 quarterback to starter. The Colts just missed the playoffs with a 9-7 record, and Chandler finished 10th in the AFC in passing. He completed 129 of 233 passes (55.4) for 1,619 yards and eight TDs with 12 interceptions. Unranked among the top 25 incoming linebackers, Alston, a 10th-round success story from Maryland, made 11 starts and had 63 tackles and three sacks.

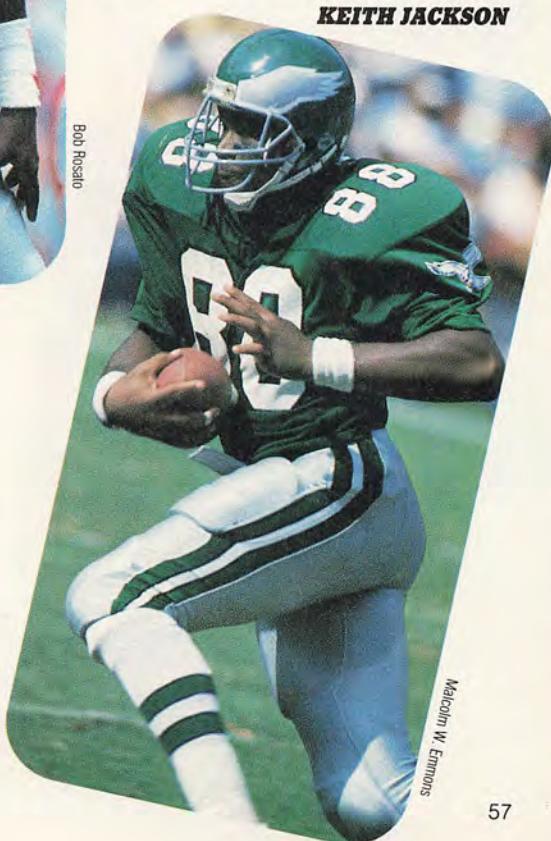
• **ANTHONY MILLER & QUINN EARLY, San Diego Chargers**—Miller, a No. 1 pick from Tennessee, led the Chargers' wideouts with 36 catches for 526 yards and three touchdowns. Early, a third-rounder from Iowa, added 29 for 275 and four TDs.

• **MICHAEL IRVIN, Dallas Cowboys**—The University of Miami star, picked 11th overall, led the Cowboys with 32 catches for 654 yards (20.4 average) and five touchdowns.

• **STERLING SHARPE, Green Bay Packers**—Picked No. 7, directly after the Raiders took Brown, Sharpe, of South Carolina, led all rookie wideouts with 55 catches for 791 yards (14.4). He scored one touchdown.

• **AARON COX & FRED STRICKLAND, Los Angeles Rams**—The Rams' second pick in the first round and No. 20 overall, Cox had the best receiving average of the newcomers at 21.1 yards. He had 28 catches and five touchdowns. Strickland, a linebacker

KEITH JACKSON



Malcolm W. Emmons

THE CLASS OF 1988

and second-round choice from Purdue, had 34 tackles and four sacks after breaking into the starting lineup late in the year.

● **RANDALL McDANIEL, Minnesota Vikings**—After the Vikings made the Arizona State guard the 19th pick of the first round, head coach Jerry Burns cautioned, "Rookie linemen can't start in our system." McDaniels took over at left guard for the injured Dave Huffman in the second week and never lost the job.

● **ERIC MOORE & JOHN ELLIOTT, New York Giants**—A tackle at Indiana University, Moore, the 10th overall pick of the first round, found a home at right guard and made 10 starts. Elliott, a 6-7, 310-pounder from Michigan, was versatile enough to start at right or left tackle.

● **KEN HARVEY, Phoenix Cardinals**—The No. 12 pick from California didn't start any games yet still tied Bruce among rookie linebackers with six sacks.

● **DANIEL STUBBS, PIERCE HOLT & BILL ROMANOWSKI, San Francisco 49ers**—One of the University of Miami's all-time sackers, Stubbs came off the bench and registered six takedowns in the regular season and added two in the playoffs. Holt, a 26-year-old rookie from Angelo State, was picked six notches below Stubbs in the second round and chipped in six sacks, including one in the playoffs. Romanowski, a third-round choice from Boston College, filled in for the injured Keena Turner and started eight games down the stretch. He had an interception in the Super Bowl.

● **PAUL GRUBER, Tampa Bay Buccaneers**—The fourth pick in the draft made news before he stepped on the field. The Wisconsin tackle signed the biggest contract ever for an offensive lineman (\$3.8 million over five years). He started every game and helped keep the defense off quarterback Vinny Testaverde's back.

● **CHIP LOHMILLER, Washington Redskins**—The University of Minnesota record-holder started slowly but made 12 of his last 14 field-goal attempts. He finished 19-of-26 overall and added 40 PATs for 97 points. Lohmiller's final miss, of 20 yards, allowed the Cincinnati Bengals to win their last game in overtime and gain home-field advantage in the AFC playoffs.

OTHER NO. 1 DRAFTEES

Not all the first-round picks had great first years. No. 2, defensive end Neil Smith of the Kansas City Chiefs, struggled to 2½ sacks. No. 5, cornerback Rickey Dixon of the Bengals, never recovered from a long contract holdout and had one interception. No. 8, left tackle Dave Cadigan of the Jets, missed 10 games with an ankle injury. No. 9, cornerback Terry McDaniel of the Raiders, missed the whole year with a knee injury. No. 14, running back Gaston Green of the Rams, rushed only 35 times for 117 yards. No. 16, defensive end Eric Kumerow of the Miami Dolphins, had a slow transition from linebacker but came on for three sacks. No. 18, defensive end Aaron Jones of the Pittsburgh Steelers, was moved around too much and contributed only 20 tackles and 1½ sacks. No. 21, linebacker Clifford Charlton of the Browns, played only on special teams. No. 22, running back Lorenzo White of the Oilers, couldn't crack their lineup but had a 90-

yard kickoff return for a touchdown. No. 23, fullback Brad Muster of the Chicago Bears, rushed 44 times for 197 yards and had 21 catches. No. 24, running back Craig Heyward of the New Orleans Saints, had 355 yards on 74 carries. No. 25, defensive end Scott Davis of the Raiders, turned in 5½ sacks in limited duty. No. 26, nose tackle Ted Gregory of the Denver Broncos, was traded to the Saints. And No. 27, wide receiver Wendell Davis of the Bears, had 15 catches for 220 yards.

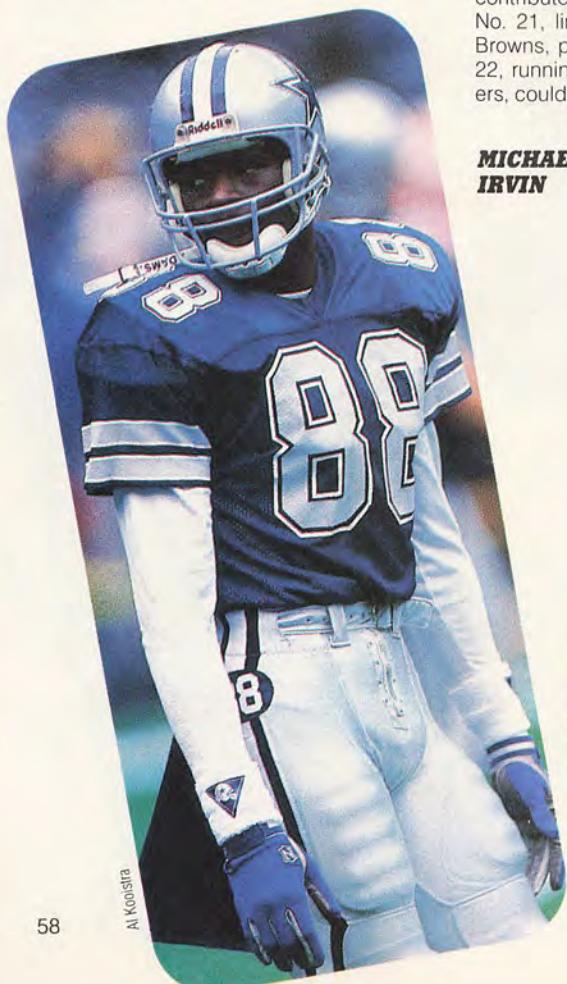
Of all of the rookies who did have their moments of glory in 1988, none capitalized off the field as much as Woods. Thanks to the popularity of the "Ickey Shuffle" and the Bengals' march to the Super Bowl, Woods appeared in a national television commercial for Oldsmobile, which co-starred his mother, Sylvia Taylor, and promoted Ickey sweatshirts, headbands, mugs, underwear, and dolls. Over \$1 million worth and still counting, according to Woods's agent, Bruce Allen.

"I obviously didn't expect the reaction to the Shuffle," Allen said.

The little dance, which Woods said he learned from his mother, even captured the attention of the league office. Woods was penalized for being "too demonstrative" in the end zone after one of three touchdowns against Buffalo in the 13th week. From then on, Woods moved his dance to the sideline, where members of the Bengals' defensive backfield joined him and added what Woods termed "the woo, woo, woo." At one point, Woods had the venerable Paul Brown try the Ickey Shuffle in the Cincinnati dressing room. "He was great," Woods reported. "He did it better than I did."

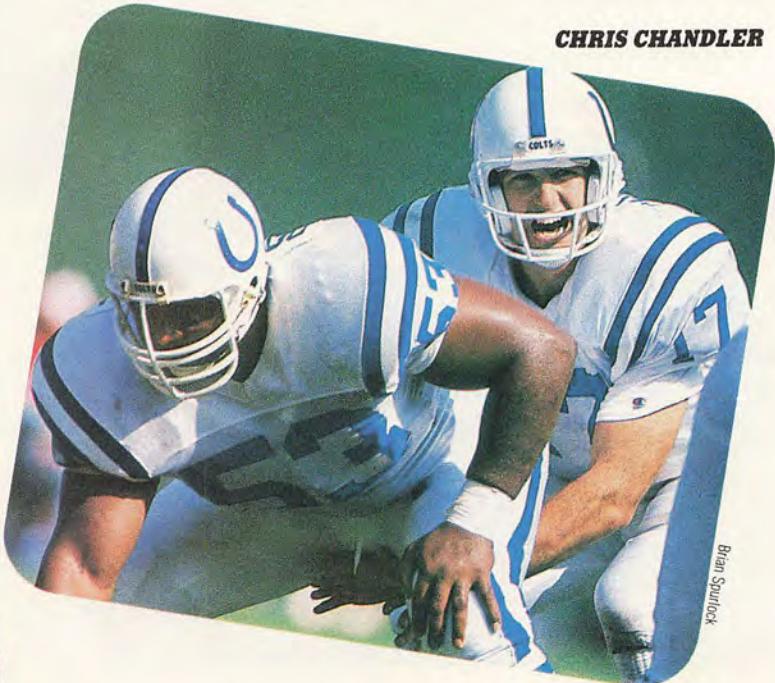
We don't know how good Ickey Woods will ultimately be. We do know that not even the great Jim Brown ever made Paul Brown dance. □

MICHAEL IRVIN



Al Kooistra

CHRIS CHANDLER



Brian Spurlock

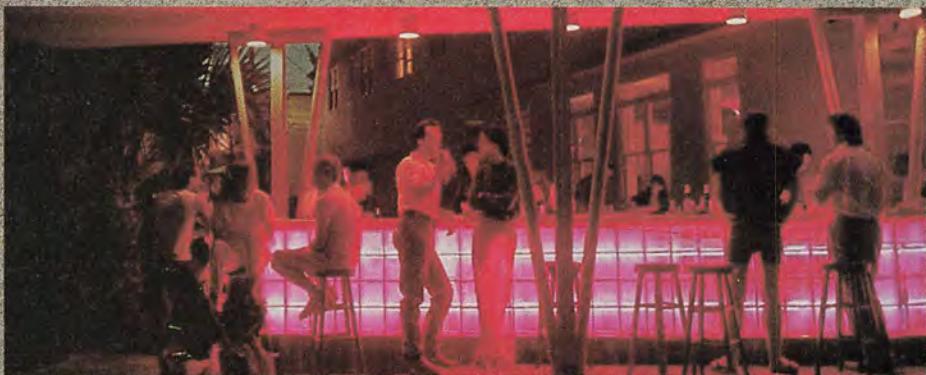
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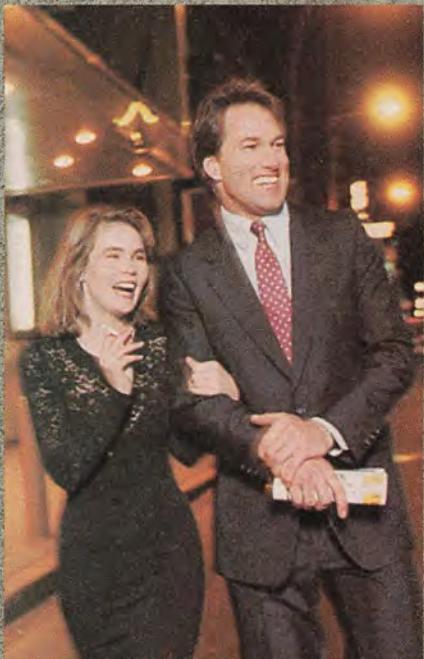
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PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

WILD CARD GAMES

Houston 24, Cleveland 23
Minnesota 28, L.A. Rams 17

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Cincinnati 21, Seattle 13
Buffalo 17, Houston 10

San Francisco 34, Minnesota 9
Chicago 20, Philadelphia 12

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

San Francisco 28, Chicago 3
Cincinnati 21, Buffalo 10

SUPER BOWL XXIII

San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16

1988 NFL FINAL STANDINGS

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	10	6	0	.625	379	319
New York Giants	10	6	0	.625	359	304
Washington	7	9	0	.438	345	387
Phoenix	7	9	0	.438	344	398
Dallas	3	13	0	.188	265	381

Central Division

Chicago	12	4	0	.750	312	215
Minnesota	11	5	0	.688	406	233
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313	261	350
Detroit	4	12	0	.250	220	313
Green Bay	4	12	0	.250	240	315

Western Division

San Francisco	10	6	0	.625	369	294
Los Angeles Rams	10	6	0	.625	407	293
New Orleans	10	6	0	.625	312	283
Atlanta	5	11	0	.313	244	315

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	12	4	0	.750	329	237
Indianapolis	9	7	0	.563	354	315
New England	9	7	0	.563	250	284
New York Jets	8	7	1	.531	372	354
Miami	6	10	0	.375	319	380

Central Division

Cincinnati	12	4	0	.750	448	329
Cleveland	10	6	0	.625	304	288
Houston	10	6	0	.625	424	365
Pittsburgh	5	11	0	.313	336	421

Western Division

Seattle	9	7	0	.563	339	329
Denver	8	8	0	.500	327	352
Los Angeles Raiders	7	9	0	.438	325	369
San Diego	6	10	0	.375	231	332
Kansas City	4	11	1	.281	254	320

NFC WILD CARD GAME

L.A. Rams	0	7	3	7 — 17
Minnesota	14	0	7	7 — 28

First Period

Minnesota: A. Anderson 7 run (C. Nelson kick), 8:13

Minnesota: Rice 17 run (C. Nelson kick), 8:34

Second Period

Los Angeles: D. Johnson 3 pass from Everett (Lansford kick), 7:42

Third Period

Minnesota: A. Anderson 1 run (C. Nelson kick), 5:35

Los Angeles: FG Lansford 43, 13:22

Fourth Period

Minnesota: Hilton 5 pass from Wilson (C. Nelson kick), 2:22

Los Angeles: Holohan 11 pass from Everett (Lansford kick), 13:43

Team Statistics

	Los Angeles	Minnesota
First downs	19	20
Rushing	4	7
Passing	15	11
Penalty	0	2
Third down efficiency	6-15	6-14
Fourth down efficiency	0-1	0-0
Net Yards	342	310
Plays	70	66
Average gain	4.9	4.7
Net yards rushing	107	103
Rushes	24	33
Average per rush	4.5	3.1
Net yards passing	235	207
Completed-attempted	19-45	17-28
Yards per pass play	5.1	6.3
Sacked-yards lost	1-12	5-46
Had intercepted	3	0
Punts-average	5-48	7-42
Total return yardage	166	113
Punts-returns	5-60	2-15
Kickoffs-returns	5-106	3-58
Interceptions	0-0	3-40
Penalties-yards	10-54	6-40
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0
Time of possession	26:06	33:40

AFC WILD CARD GAME

Houston	0	14	0	10 — 24
Cleveland	3	6	7	7 — 23

First Period

Cleveland: FG Bahr 33, 5:17

Second Period

Houston: Pinkett 14 pass from Moon (Zendejas kick), .07

Houston: Pinkett 16 run (Zendejas kick), :22

Cleveland: FG Bahr 26, 6:27

Cleveland: FG Bahr 28, 11:41

Third Period

Cleveland: Slaughter 14 pass from Pagel (Bahr kick), 12:24

Fourth Period

Houston: White 1 run (Zendejas kick), 2:35

Houston: FG Zendejas 49, 13:06

Cleveland: Slaughter 2 pass from Pagel (Bahr kick), 14:29

Team Statistics

	Houston	Cleveland
First downs	19	19
Rushing	7	4
Passing	12	11
Penalty	0	4
Third down efficiency	8-14	5-12
Fourth down efficiency	0-0	0-0
Net yards	334	260
Plays	62	54
Average gain	5.4	4.8
Net yards rushing	129	68
Rushes	35	26
Average per rush	3.7	2.6
Net yards passing	205	192
Completed-attempted	16-26	19-28
Yards per pass play	7.6	6.9
Sacked-yards lost	1-8	0-0
Had intercepted	3	1
Punts-average	3-38	3-35
Total return yardage	72	151
Punts-returns	0-0	3-27
Kickoffs-returns	5-72	3-75
Interceptions	1-0	3-49
Penalties-yards	13-118	9-75
Fumbles-lost	2-0	1-1
Time of possession	33:40	26:36

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Houston, Pinkett 14-82, White 12-30, Moon 6-16, Highsmith 2-3, Givins 1-(-2), Cleveland, Byner 9-57, Mack 12-14, Strock 1-0, Pagel 1-(-1), Fontenot 3-(-2).

Passing: Houston, Moon 16-26-3-213.

Cleveland, Pagel 17-25-1-179,

Strock 2-3-0-13.

Receiving: Houston, Hill 5-73, Jeffires 3-52, Duncan 2-33, Pinkett 2-24, Williams 1-14, Givins 1-8, Highsmith 1-8, White 1-1. Cleveland, Langhorne 6-57, Slaughter 5-58, Byner 3-10, Brennan 2-34, Weathers 2-27, Mack 1-6.

AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

Seattle	0	0	0	13 — 13
Cincinnati	7	14	0	0 — 21

First Period

Cincinnati: Wilson 3 run (Breech kick), 5:49

Second Period

Cincinnati: Wilson 3 run (Breech kick), 3:25

Cincinnati: Woods 1 run (Breech kick), 7:20

Fourth Period

Seattle: Williams 7 pass from Krieg (N. Johnson kick), 3:20

Seattle: Krieg 1 run (kick failed), 8:55

continued

PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

Team Statistics

	Seattle	Cincinnati
First downs	19	22
Rushing	1	17
Passing	16	5
Penalty	2	0
Third down efficiency	2-12	6-13
Fourth down efficiency	2-4	0-1
Net yards	294	345
Plays	69	68
Average gain	4.3	5.1
Net yards rushing	18	254
Rushes	17	47
Average per rush	1.1	5.4
Net yards passing	276	91
Completed-attempted	24-50	7-19
Yards per pass play	5.3	4.3
Sacked-yards lost	2-21	2-17
Had intercepted	2	0
Punts-average	6.44	6.46
Total return yardage	96	73
Punts-returns	5-30	3-19
Kickoffs-returns	3-66	3-54
Interceptions	0-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	5-45	2-29
Fumbles-lost	1-1	3-2
Time of possession	24:41	35:19

Individual Statistics

Rushing:	Seattle, Warner 8-11, Williams 8-6, Krieg 1-1, Cincinnati, Woods 23-126, Brooks 13-72, Wilson 7-45, Esiason 4-11.
Passing:	Seattle, Krieg 24-50-2-297, Cincinnati, Esiason 7-19-108.
Receiving:	Seattle, Williams 11-137, Blades 5-78, Butler 2-40, Largent 2-17, Skansi 1-11, Clark 1-8, Spagnola 1-7, Warner 1-(1), Cincinnati, Holman 3-44, Collinsworth 1-30, Brown 1-23, Brooks 1-9, Rigg 1-(2).
NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF	
Minnesota	3...0...6...0—9
San Francisco	7...14...0...13—34

First Period

Minnesota:	FG C. Nelson 47, 6:22
San Francisco:	Rice 2 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 13:11

Second Period

San Francisco:	Rice 4 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), .04
San Francisco:	Rice 11 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 14:22

Third Period

Minnesota:	Jones 5 pass from Wilson (kick failed), 5:18
Fourth Period	

San Francisco:	Craig 4 run (Cofer kick), 1:19
San Francisco:	Craig 80 run (kick failed), 5:56

Team Statistics

	Minnesota	San Francisco
First downs	20	20
Rushing	4	7
Passing	14	11
Penalty	2	2
Third down efficiency	4-17	5-11
Fourth down efficiency	2-3	0-0
Net yards	262	372
Plays	66	62
Average gain	3.6	5.9
Net yards rushing	54	201
Rushes	19	34

Average per rush	2.8	5.9
Net yards passing	208	171
Completed-attempted	23-47	17-28
Yards per pass play	3.9	5.8
Sacked-yards lost	6-47	1-6
Had intercepted	2	.1
Punts-average	7.39	5.36
Total return yardage	123	76
Punts-returns	2-27	2-27
Kickoffs-returns	6-96	3-39
Interceptions	1-0	2-10
Penalties-yards	9-90	6-60
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-1
Time of possession	28:13	31:47

Individual Statistics

Rushing:	Minnesota, Rice 5-20, Fenney 6-20, Anderson 3-9, D. Nelson 2-3, Wilson 3-2, San Francisco, Craig 21-135, Rathman 3-29, Rice 1-21, Montana 3-18, Sydney 1-1, Young 3-1, Flagler 2-(4).
Passing:	Minnesota, Wilson 23-47-2-255, San Francisco, Montana 16-27-1-178, Young 1-1-0-(1).
Receiving:	Minnesota, Jones 7-71, Rice 4-26, Carter 3-45, Jordan 3-44, Anderson 3-36, Lewis 1-19, Gustafson 1-18, Fenney 1-(4), San Francisco, Rice 5-61, Talor 3-42, Craig 3-26, Rathman 2-20, Jones 2-17, Wilson 1-12, Sydney 1-1-(1).
AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF	
Houston	0...3...0...7—10
Buffalo	0...7...7...3—17

Second Period

Buffalo:	Riddick 1 run (Norwood kick), 4:25
Houston:	FG Zendejas 35, 10:28

Third Period

Buffalo:	Thomas 11 run (Norwood kick), 12:02
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Fourth Period

Buffalo:	FG Norwood 27, 3:25
Houston:	Rozier 1 run (Zendejas kick), 9:48

Team Statistics

	Houston	Buffalo
First downs	20	18
Rushing	6	6
Passing	12	9
Penalty	2	3
Third down efficiency	3-12	3-14
Fourth down efficiency	0-0	0-2
Net yards	351	372
Plays	61	63
Average gain	5.7	5.9
Net yards rushing	125	135
Rushes	26	29
Average per rush	4.8	4.6
Net yards passing	226	237
Completed-attempted	17-33	19-33
Yards per pass play	6.5	7.0
Sacked-yards lost	1-7	2-14
Had intercepted	1	1
Punts-average	6-37	4-39
Total return yardage	64	141
Punts-returns	1-6	4-56
Kickoffs-returns	4-58	3-57
Interceptions	1-0	1-28
Penalties-yards	8-60	8-57
Fumbles-lost	5-2	1-0
Time of possession	31:07	28:53

Individual Statistics

Rushing:	Houston, Highsmith 5-57, Rozier 13-44, Moon 5-11, Pinkett 3-13, Buffalo, Thomas 7-75, Mueller 7-24, Kelly 3-18, Riddick 9-12, Reed 1-(-1), Harmon 1-7, Byrum 1-0.
Passing:	Houston, Moon 17-33-1-240, Buffalo, Kelly 19-33-1-244.

Receiving:	Houston, Hill 4-62, Highsmith 2-3, Jeffries 5-78, Givins 1-23, Duncan 1-9, Pinkett 2-21, Harris 2-44, Buffalo, Reed 6-91, Metzelaars 1-7, Burkett 3-55, T. Johnson 3-31, Harmon 5-58, Mueller 1-2.
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NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

Philadelphia	3...6...3...0—12
Chicago	7...10...0...3—20

First Period

Chicago:	McKinnon 64 pass from Tomczak (Butler kick), 3:02
Philadelphia:	FG Zendejas 42, 7:56

Second Period

Philadelphia:	FG Zendejas 29, 5:43
Chicago:	Anderson 4 run (Butler kick), 8:39

Chicago:	FG Butler 46, 12:57
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Philadelphia:	FG Zendejas 30, 14:28
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Third Period

Philadelphia:	FG Zendejas 35, 13:02
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Fourth Period

Chicago:	FG Butler 27, 2:26
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Team Statistics

	Philadelphia	Chicago
First downs	22	14
Rushing	1	8
Passing	21	6
Penalty	0	0
Third down efficiency	3-14	4-13
Fourth down efficiency	1-2	1-1
Net yards	430	341
Plays	75	57
Average gain	5.7	6.0
Net yards rushing	52	164
Rushes	16	33
Average per rush	3.3	5.0
Net yards passing	378	177
Completed-attempted	27-55	12-23
Yards per pass play	6.4	7.4
Sacked-yards lost	4-29	1-8
Had intercepted	3	3
Punts-average	4-33	2-43
Total return yardage	128	184
Punts-returns	1-3	1-0
Kickoffs-returns	5-101	5-86
Interceptions	3-24	3-98
Penalties-yards	7-60	1-5
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-1
Time of possession	32:44	27:16

Individual Statistics

Rushing:	Philadelphia, Byars 7-34, Cunningham 3-12, Haddix 1-3, Toney 5-3, Chicago, Sanders 8-94, Anderson 14-54, Muster 6-12, Gentry 1-6, Suhey 1-0, Tomczak 1-0, McMahon 2-(2).
Passing:	Philadelphia, Cunningham 27-54-3-407, Carter 0-1-0-0, Chicago, Tomczak 10-20-3-172, McMahon 2-3-0-13.
Receiving:	Philadelphia, Byars 9-103, Keith Jackson 7-142, Quic 5-82, Haddix 2-23, Toney 2-9, Johnson 1-31, Carter 1-17, Chicago, McKinnon 4-108, Boso 2-16, Gentry 2-9, Morris 1-27, Davis 1-11, Sanders 1-8, Anderson 1-6.

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Buffalo	0	10	0	0	0—10
Cincinnati	7	7	0	0	7—21

First Period

Cincinnati: Woods 1 run (Breech kick), 13:09

Second Period

Buffalo: Reed 9 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick), 1:39

Cincinnati: Brooks 10 pass from Esiason (Breech kick), 2:21

Buffalo: FG Norwood 39, 14:38

Fourth Period

Cincinnati: Woods 1 run (Breech kick), 04

Team Statistics

	Buffalo	Cincinnati
First downs	10	23
Rushing	2	15
Passing	8	5
Penalty	0	3
Third down efficiency	0-10	7-15
Fourth down efficiency	0-1	1-1
Net yards	181	249
Plays	50	73
Average gain	3.6	3.4
Net yards rushing	45	175
Rushes	17	50
Average per rush	2.6	3.5
Net yards passing	136	74
Completed-attempted	14-30	11-20
Yards per pass play	4.1	3.2
Sacked-yards lost	3-27	3-20
Had intercepted	3	2
Punts-average	6-45	6-37
Total return yardage	84	77
Punts-returns	1-2	3-24
Kickoffs-returns	3-57	3-30
Interceptions	2-25	3-23
Penalties-yards	5-50	4-45
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-0
Time of possession	20:31	39:29

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Buffalo, Mueller 8-21, Kelly 2-10, Thomas 4-6, Ridick 1-4, Byrum 1-3, Harm 1-1. Cincinnati, Woods 29-102, Wilson 5-29, Esiason 7-26, Jennings 2-12, Brooks 7-6.
Passing: Buffalo, Kelly 14-30-3-163. Cincinnati, Esiason 11-20-2-94.
Receiving: Buffalo, Reed 5-55, Harmon 3-18, Ridick 3-28, T. Johnson 2-48, Metzaars 1-14. Cincinnati, Holman 4-38, Riggs 2-16, Brooks 2-21, McGee 2-14, Collinsworth 1-5.
NFC CHAMPIONSHIP
San Francisco 7 7 7 7—28

First Period

San Francisco: Rice 61 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 11:42

Second Period

San Francisco: Rice 27 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 7:35

Chicago: FG Butler 25, 11:54

Third Period

San Francisco: Frank 5 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 5:27

Fourth Period

San Francisco: Rathman 4 run (Cofer kick), 8:07

Team Statistics

	San Francisco	Chicago
First downs	21	15
Rushing	9	8
Passing	12	7
Penalty	0	0
Third down efficiency	9-15	4-14
Fourth down efficiency	0-0	1-2
Net yards	406	267
Plays	66	66
Average gain	6.2	4.0
Net yards rushing	138	91
Rushes	37	25
Average per rush	3.7	3.6
Net yards passing	268	176
Completed-attempted	17-27	20-41
Yards per pass play	9.2	4.3
Sacked-yards lost	2-20	0-0
Had intercepted	0	1
Punts-average	6-35	7-31
Total return yardage	60	90
Punts-returns	4-24	1-1
Kickoffs-returns	2-36	5-89
Interceptions	1-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	0-0	3-35
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-1
Time of possession	31:03	28:57

Individual Statistics

Rushing: San Francisco, Craig 18-68, Rathman 10-36, Montana 3-12, Sydney 2-12, Flager 3-7, Rice 1-3. Chicago, Anderson 14-59, Sanders 7-22, McMahon 1-9, Suhey 1-3, Muster 1-2, McKinnon 1-(4).
Passing: San Francisco, Montana 17-27-0-288. Chicago, McMahon 14-29-1-121, Tomczak 6-12-0-55.
Receiving: San Francisco, Rice 5-133, Rathman 5-51, Taylor 3-51, Craig 2-33, Frank 2-2. Chicago, Anderson 5-31, Thornton 4-52, McKinnon 3-26, Morris 2-25, Gentry 2-13, Suhey 2-8, Sanders 1-12, Muster 1-9.
SUPER BOWL XXIII
At Miami, FL, January 22

Cincinnati	0	3	10	3	16
San Francisco	3	0	3	14	20

First Period

San Francisco: FG Cofer 41, 11:46

Second Period

Cincinnati: FG Breech 34, 13:45

Third Period

Cincinnati: FG Breech 43, 9:21

San Francisco: FG Cofer 32, 14:10

Cincinnati: Jennings 93 kickoff return (Breech kick), 14:26

Fourth Period

San Francisco: Rice 14 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 57

Cincinnati: FG Breech 40, 11:40

San Francisco: Taylor 10 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 14:26

Team Statistics

	Cincinnati	San Francisco
First downs	13	23
Rushing	7	6
Passing	6	16
Penalty	0	1
Third down efficiency	4-13	4-13
Fourth down efficiency	0-1	0-0
Net yards	229	454
Plays	64	67
Average gain	3.6	6.8
Net yards rushing	106	111
Rushes	28	28
Average per rush	3.8	4.0

Net yards passing	123	343
Completed-attempted	11-25	23-36
Yards per pass play	3.4	8.8
Sacked-yards lost	5-21	3-14
Had intercepted	1	0
Punts-average	5-44	4-37
Total return yardage	137	133
Punts-returns	2-5	3-56
Kickoffs-returns	3-132	5-77
Interceptions	0-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	7-65	4-32
Fumbles-lost	1-0	4-1
Time of possession	32:43	27:17

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Cincinnati, Woods 20-79, Brooks 6-24, Jennings 1-3, Esiason 1-0. San Francisco, Craig 17-74, Rathman 5-23, Montana 5-9, Rice 1-5.
Passing: Cincinnati, Esiason 11-25-1-144. San Francisco, Montana 23-36-0-357.
Receiving: Cincinnati, Brown 4-44, Collinsworth 3-40, McGee 2-23, Brooks 1-20, Hillary, 1-17. San Francisco, Rice 11-215, Craig 8-101, Frank 2-15, Rathman 1-16, Taylor 1-10.
SUPER BOWL MVPs

1967 . . . Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers
1968 . . . Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers
1969 . . . Joe Namath, New York Jets
1970 . . . Len Dawson, Kansas City Chiefs
1971 . . . Chuck Howley, Dallas Cowboys
1972 . . . Roger Staubach, Dallas Cowboys
1973 . . . Jake Scott, Miami Dolphins
1974 . . . Larry Csonka, Miami Dolphins
1975 . . . Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers
1976 . . . Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh Steelers
1977 . . . Fred Biletnikoff, Oakland Raiders
1978 . . . Randy White and Harvey Martin, Dallas Cowboys
1979 . . . Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers
1980 . . . Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers
1981 . . . Jim Plunkett, Oakland Raiders
1982 . . . Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1983 . . . John Riggins, Washington Redskins
1984 . . . Marcus Allen, Los Angeles Raiders
1985 . . . Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1986 . . . Richard Dent, Chicago Bears
1987 . . . Phil Simms, New York Giants
1988 . . . Doug Williams, Washington Redskins
1989 . . . Jerry Rice, San Francisco 49ers

PAST SUPER BOWLS

1967 . . . Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10
1968 . . . Green Bay 33, Oakland 14
1969 . . . New York Jets 16, Baltimore 7
1970 . . . Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7
1971 . . . Baltimore 16, Dallas 13
1972 . . . Dallas 24, Miami 3
1973 . . . Miami 14, Washington 7
1974 . . . Miami 24, Minnesota 7
1975 . . . Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6
1976 . . . Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17
1977 . . . Oakland 32, Minnesota 14
1978 . . . Dallas 27, Denver 10
1979 . . . Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31
1980 . . . Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles Rams 19
1981 . . . Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10
1982 . . . San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21
1983 . . . Washington 27, Miami 17
1984 . . . Los Angeles Raiders 38, Washington 9
1985 . . . San Francisco 38, Miami 16
1986 . . . Chicago 46, New England 10
1987 . . . New York Giants 39, Denver 20
1988 . . . Washington 42, Denver 10
1989 . . . San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PREDICTIONS

EASTERN DIVISION

1. Winnipeg Blue Bombers
2. Toronto Argonauts
3. Hamilton Tiger-Cats
4. Ottawa Rough Riders

WESTERN DIVISION

1. British Columbia Lions
2. Saskatchewan Roughriders
3. Edmonton Eskimos
4. Calgary Stampeders

by RICK MATSUMOTO

TORONTO STAR

The Canadian Football League apparently subscribes to the axiom that two heads are better than one. That undoubtedly is why the CFL installed two men to replace outgoing commissioner Doug Mitchell. And in doing so, the league wiped out the term commissioner. Instead, it named Bill Baker, once a feared defensive end with the Saskatchewan Roughriders and B.C. Lions known as the "Undertaker," who most recently was general manager of the Roughies, as president and chief operating officer. Roy McMurtry, former Ontario attorney general and high commissioner to London, became chairman and chief executive officer.

Baker will be concerned with the day-to-day operations of the league and work with the general managers. McMurtry will deal with the board of governors and overall league policies. It's the first time since 1958, when Sydney Halter was first named to that post, that the CFL has been headed by someone other than a commissioner. However, with the league still mired in trouble, perhaps two heads are better than one.

It didn't take Baker and McMurtry long to come face to face with their first crisis. They woke up one chilly morning early in February to find the league under attack by a trio of Toronto businessmen eager to bring the National Football League to Canada. And if that wasn't bad enough, the CFL found that the trio was seemingly being aided and abetted by one of its own—Carling O'Keefe Brewery, who until two short months earlier had owned the Toronto Argonauts and still retained a five percent share in the team.

The three principals in the plot to bring American football to Canada—Toronto Sun publisher Paul Godfrey, Sun president Doug Creighton, and real estate developer Rudy Bratty, also a Sun director—admitted they had been working secretly for two years to bring an NFL team to Toronto to play in the new SkyDome, which opened in June. But when it became clear that the rival newspaper, the *Toronto Star*, was about to reveal the clandestine

operation, the *Sun* group hurriedly called a press conference to tell all.

Carling O'Keefe's part in the scheme appears to be one of self-preservation in the competitive beer market. While they've reduced their interest in the Argos to a mere five percent, they want to be in on the ground floor should the NFL ever come to Toronto.

The *Sun* group insisted it was not out to kill the CFL. Still, the trio didn't exactly provide the troubled league with a much-needed shot of adrenaline, either, with their revelation. Godfrey, who as Metro Chairman was instrumental

1988 CFL FINAL STANDINGS

	EASTERN DIVISION	w	l	t	pts	off	def
Toronto	14	4	0	28	571	326	
Winnipeg	9	9	0	18	407	458	
Hamilton	9	9	0	18	478	465	
Ottawa	2	16	0	4	278	618	
WESTERN DIVISION							
Edmonton	11	7	0	22	477	408	
Saskatchewan	11	7	0	22	525	452	
British Columbia	10	8	0	20	489	417	
Calgary	6	12	0	12	395	476	

DIVISION SEMIFINALS

Winnipeg 35 • Hamilton 28

British Columbia 42 • Saskatchewan 18

DIVISION FINALS

Winnipeg 27 • Toronto 11

British Columbia 37 • Edmonton 19

GREY CUP

Winnipeg 22 • British Columbia 21

in bringing a major-league baseball franchise, the Blue Jays, to Toronto, said that because of declining attendance in most CFL cities the question of the league's survival had to be raised. "We can't sit back any longer and wait for things to happen," he told the press conference. "We don't have control of all the circumstances, but we will do everything we can to make it a reality." He said there was an obligation to ensure football of some kind would be available to Torontonians, especially in view of the fact the city would have a world-class stadium. Godfrey also said that Montreal's publicly-stated plans to go after an NFL franchise for its domed Olympic Stadium was also a factor in his group's revealing its plans.

Later information obtained by the *Star*, however, showed that the Toronto group was secretly working on strategy for wooing the NFL at least 30 months before the plan was uncovered. A letter from the Washington law firm of

Arnold & Porter to Creighton, dated August 11, 1986, outlined the moves the Toronto group would have to take to make an NFL franchise bid. The step-by-step procedure was provided by one of commissioner Pete Rozelle's top advisers, NFL senior counsel Paul Tagliabue, after a meeting with James Fitzpatrick of Arnold & Porter.

Creighton was warned by Fitzpatrick, on advice from Tagliabue, that the Canadian group should not go "high profile." In the letter, Fitzpatrick also stated, "A Canadian entrant will be in a particularly delicate situation when it surfaces publicly because it could engender significant congressional reaction if it were thought that the Canadian offer was likely to bump an American franchise bidder." Creighton and his group were able to keep their plans under wraps until the cat got out of the bag in February.

The CFL and its supporters have long contended that the NFL would never come to Canada while (a) the CFL was still alive, and (b) there were a significant number of U.S. cities seeking NFL teams. While the latter is out of their control, the survival of the CFL is an on-going problem for league officials. The eight teams continued to struggle, for the most part, at the box office and the resultant falloff in revenue has led to problems such as teams being unable to retain their top players. As players come and go, continuity is lost and the league loses credibility.

Now, talk of an NFL franchise bid in Toronto and Montreal (which has not had a CFL team since the Alouettes collapsed in 1987) won't help the league at the turnstiles either. The fact that the announcement was made at a time when CFL teams were getting ready to launch their 1989 season-ticket sales was seen by the league as a direct attempt to place a nail under the CFL's tires.

"Is it a direct shot at the CFL? Of course it is," said Baker. "We'd be silly saying it isn't, but what we want to know is why they're taking the shot."

The answer might seem obvious to some: drive another nail into the CFL coffin and bring the NFL another step closer to Canada. On the other hand, the *Sun* group was quite willing to keep its NFL aspirations quiet until it learned that the rival *Star* was onto the story. Rather than be scooped on their own story, the *Sun* boys went public.

Whether all of this will have an effect on the CFL remains to be seen. The answer won't be provided until the turnstiles start clicking in Toronto this summer. If there are significantly fewer clicks, then the announcement of the NFL franchise bid, intended or not, will have had—for the *Sun* group anyway—the desired effect.

EASTERN DIVISION

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

(9-9) The defending Grey Cup champion Blue Bombers got quite a jolt one morning in late February when head coach Mike Riley suddenly turned in his resignation to accept an assistant coaching job at Stanford University. It didn't take the Bombers long to find a replacement, though. Within a week they had a new head coach: Mike Riley. Yes, one and the same Mike Riley. After accepting the job at Stanford, Riley had a change of heart and asked to return.

"I thought, 'I really liked what I was doing,'" said Riley, in explaining his about-face. "I thought the job at Stanford would open some doors for me in the future. But then I began to think that I enjoyed what I was doing, so why was I worrying about the future?"

For Riley the future is now, and with it comes the task of retaining the Grey Cup, which became the Bombers' for the second time in five years when they defeated the B.C. Lions, 22-21. After a mediocre .500 season, the Bombers found themselves in the Grey Cup game in Ottawa when they upset the division-winning Toronto Argonauts in the Eastern final.

11 touchdowns, to Schenley Award winner David Williams of the B.C. Lions. Buster Rhymes (Oklahoma), who joined the team late in the season, will battle Perry Tuttle (Clemson), a former first-round NFL draft pick, for the wide-receiver spot.

Tim Jessie (Auburn) has the inside track at one running back and Riley was counting on Bomber general manager Cal Murphy to resign Canadian fullback Tony Johns, who had played out his option. But the most formidable chore facing Riley on offense was that of replacing veteran guard Nick Bastaja, who, at 36 and with 14 CFL seasons behind him, announced his retirement. Brad Tierney and Steven Rodehutskors, a pair of young home-brews, were the early candidates.

While Riley acknowledged the contribution of his defense to the Grey Cup victory, he knew all too well that cracks had started to appear in the lineup. Cornerback James Jefferson (Texas A&M) signed a rich deal with the NFL's Seattle Seahawks and there was a strong possibility that safety Bennie Thompson (Grambling) would follow suit. The Bombers planned to give wide receiver Roy Hurd (Kentucky State) a look in the secondary.

The rest of the defense, however, remains

since their inception 106 years ago. Harry Ornest, an Edmonton-born multi-millionaire, purchased the debt-ridden team from Carling O'Keefe Brewery last November, just days after he watched the Winnipeg Blue Bombers capture the Grey Cup the Argos had let slip through their hands.

There was plenty of speculation that Ornest bought the Argos simply as an "in" to obtain an NFL franchise for Toronto's new Sky-



To return to the Grey Cup game this year, Riley knows all too well that the Bombers must upgrade their attack. "We have to improve on offense," admitted Riley. "At best we were inconsistent last year. We have to be more productive and more explosive. We won the Grey Cup with defense and our kicking game."

The Bombers will open the season with Sean Salisbury (Southern Cal) at quarterback. He will have the benefit of a training camp with the club, a major plus for Riley. Joining the team midway through last season, Salisbury (6-5, 215) took over from Tom Muecke (Baylor) and gave the Bombers the offensive leadership they lost with the retirement of Tom Clements (Notre Dame). Giving Muecke a run for the backup job was Lee Saltz (Temple), who dressed ahead of Muecke in the Grey Cup game, and Sam Garza (Texas-El Paso).

Salisbury's main target will be James Murphy (Utah State), who finished second in receiving, with 76 catches for 1,409 yards and

potent. The front four of Romel Andrews (Tennessee-Martin), Stan Mikowas (North Dakota), Mike Gray (Oregon), and Willie Fears (Northwest Louisiana) is intact. The linebacking corps, which has been the Bombers' strength for the past several seasons, will again be a force. Aaron Brown (Ohio State), Delbert Fowler (West Virginia), and James West (Texas Southern) will be joined by the aptly named Greg Battle (Arizona State).

Then, of course, there's the Bombers' strong kicking game of punter Bob Cameron and place-kicker Trevor Kennard, on whom Riley depends so heavily. Kennard booted four field goals in the Grey Cup game, including a 30-yarder in the fourth quarter which proved to be the winner.

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

(14-4) The oldest football club in North America enters the 1989 season with a new owner—only the sixth owner the Argonauts have had

Dome—when and if the CFL went under. The Argos hold a long-term lease on the stadium for pro football. Ornest hotly denied that suggestion and claimed, "I'm optimistic about the CFL. We're going to average 40,000 fans a game at the SkyDome next year."

The best way for Ornest to win credibility with Argo fans will be to spend money to make sure the team remains a contender. After dominating the league, the Argo season came to an abrupt and disappointing end last November when they were upset by Winnipeg in the Eastern final.

Toronto will have to try to make amends with a team that could be minus several of its key players. Dan Ferrone, one of the team's leaders, was lost to the Calgary Stampeders in the equalization draft. The Argos had gambled that no team would pick up a 31-year-old lineman. The Argos were also expected to lose all-CFL tackle Chris Schultz, the former Dallas Cowboy, who was eager to give the NFL another try. Nose tackle Jerald Bayliss (Southern Mississippi) and outstanding linebacker Willie Pless (Kansas) were seeking NFL jobs as well. Pless's size (5-10, 215), however, might prove a detriment to his NFL aspirations.

The Argos received some good news in that wide receiver Jeff Boyd (Chapman College) had changed his mind about retiring and was thinking of returning for another season. Having Boyd, who had 65 catches for 1,159 yards last season, back would give the Argos balance to go along with the running of Gill "the Thrill" Fenerty (Holy Cross). Fenerty seemed well on his way to winning the rushing title and the Schenley Award as the CFL's outstanding player when he suffered a broken ankle. Still, he finished second in rushing with 968 yards and added another 443 yards on 51 pass receptions. Gilbert Renfroe (Tennessee State) emerged as the No. 1 quarterback, a position he'll carry into this season, although coach Bob O'Billovich still has a lot of confidence in the veteran Danny Barrett (Cincinnati). Third-year man John Congemi (Pittsburgh) is in the picture if he re-signs.

Lee Norris (Oklahoma) will battle speedy Pernell Moore (Ohio Central) for the other wide-receiver spot. Lorenzo Graham (Livingstone) proved to be a solid ball carrier, and he could force the Argos to look at employing two import running backs.

Defensively, stalwart ends Rodney Harding (Oklahoma State) and Don Baldwin (Purdue) and tackle Harold Hallman (Auburn) will anchor the line. Outstanding Canadian linebacker Don Moen (UBC) played out his option but was expected to re-sign, as were defensive backs Doran Major (Memphis State) and Selwyn Drain (Ball State). The corners are solid with veterans Carl Brazley (Western Kentucky) and Reggie Pleasant (Clemson). Canadian Tony Visco (Purdue) could also be ready to move in as a starter at linebacker.

Punter Hank Ilesic and place-kicker Lance Chomyc provide distance and consistency.

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

(9-9) As has long been a tradition, the Ticats' on-field strength lies in defense, particularly the front seven. The fearsome line is led by 34-year-old Grover Covington (Johnson C. Smith), who last year topped the CFL with 25 sacks. The nine-year vet will again be joined by Rod Skillman (Missouri), 17 sacks; Mike Walker (Washington State), 13 sacks, and Canadian Tim Lorenz (Santa Barbara).

The front four will receive strong support from the linebacking corps if free agent Darrell Patterson (Texas Christian) re-signs with the club, as he was expected to do. He had 91 tackles last year, the most on the team. Veter-

an Frank Robinson (Tulane) is the other outside backer, with Darrell Corbin (South Carolina State), who took over from perennial all-star Ben Zambiasi last year, in the middle. Lance Shields (Drake) has become one of the best cornerbacks in the league. The other cornerback, Arnold Grevious (James Madison), along with nine-year veteran Howard Fields, at halfback, return, as does Canadian rover Scott Flagel. The Ticats, however, must come up with another solid halfback.

Offensively, all positions, with the exception of slotback, are an uncertainty. At quarterback, Mike Kerrigan (Northwestern) was enjoying his best season when he separated his right shoulder two thirds of the way into the schedule. Just how well he's recovered won't be known until he begins throwing at camp. Tom Porras (Washington) and the much-traveled Todd Dillon (Long Beach State) will battle for the backup role, but one might have to emerge as No. 1 if Kerrigan's shoulder doesn't come around. Terry Andrysiak (Notre Dame) is the fourth quarterback.

Earl Winfield's departure to the Seattle Seahawks leaves a hole (60 catches for 1,213 yards) at wide receiver. Compounding the problem is the uncertain condition of Tony Champion (Tennessee-Martin), who suffered a serious leg injury a year ago, and Steve Stapler (San Diego State), who was hurt in a car accident last fall. Richard Estell (Kansas) and Reginald Bynum (Oregon State), who spent some time the past two seasons with the Buffalo Bills, will vie for the wide-receiver spots along with the Ticats' No. 1 draft pick, Curtis Bell (Washington). Dependable Rocky DiPietro, entering his 12th season with the team, will start at one slotback, while Lee Knight will probably move in on the other side in place of Jacques Chapdelaine.

The running-back situation is a mess. Johnny Jones, who started last year, is gone. His replacement, Martin Sartin (Long Beach State), has been invited back, but he'll have to improve on his 3.7 yards per-carry average to keep the job. He'll get competition from Derrick McAdoo (Baylor) and Ken Zachary (Oklahoma State). Zachary was the back on whom the Ticats were counting last season before he suffered a neck injury which limited him to 183 yards. It won't be known until training camp if he can return to form. Steve Jackson will be the fullback, with Jed Tommy or Ernie Schramayr (Purdue) as the backup.

Paul Osbaldiston (Western Montana) will handle the punting and place-kicking chores.

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

(2-16) Steve Goldman has seen the best and worst of the CFL. He'll draw on that experience as he wades through the formidable task of turning around the dismal Riders, winners of just five games in the past two seasons.

Goldman, a Brooklyn, NY native, found out how bad a football operation could be during a two-year stint as an assistant coach with the Argonauts (1980-81). "Toronto was just awful," he said. "We went 2-14 my last year there. From that I have a good idea just how these kids here [in Ottawa] feel."

Goldman moved on to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats for two years after Bob O'Billovich took over the Argo coaching staff and cleaned house. Then, in 1984, he joined the Edmonton Eskimos and helped them to a Grey Cup title in 1987. "A lot of [what] I hope to implement

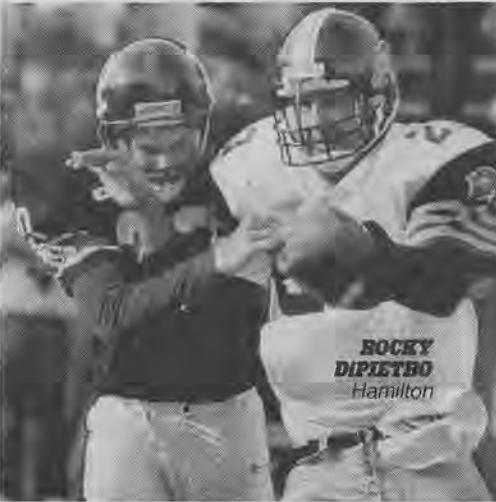
here are things I learned in Edmonton under [head coach] Jackie Parker," he said.

Goldman knows, however, that any team is only as good as its quarterback. That's why he lured Damon Allen (Fullerton State) away from the Eskimos after the younger brother of Los Angeles Raiders' star, Marcus Allen, had played out his option. At the same time he released 32-year-old former B.C. Lion Roy Dewalt. "You need a quarterback young enough to build a team around," he said. "Damon has the talent and the experience needed to give us leadership on the field."

The Eskimos thought enough of Allen that they shipped Matt Dunigan to the Lions prior to last season. But then injuries plagued Allen, and by the end of the year he was playing second fiddle to the up-and-coming Tracy Ham (Georgia Southern). And with Ham having established himself as a bona fide starter, Allen wasn't going to get the kind of money he might have expected when he made the decision to play out his option. Thus, the Ottawa offer provided him with a tempting alternative, one he couldn't turn down.

Dewalt wasn't the only aging veteran to be cut under Goldman's rejuvenation scheme. Center Marv Allemand, 36; fullback Jim Reid, 31; center Mark Moors, 32, and defensive end Hasson Arbubakr (Texas Tech), 28, were retired or released.

Besides Allen, the Riders' other young cornerstone is running back Orville Lee (Simon Fraser), who led the league in rushing (1,075



yards on 232 carries) and easily won a Schenley Award as the CFL's top rookie. "You can pencil him in in ink," quipped Goldman. The Riders are hoping they'll be able to say the same thing about slotback Gerald Wilcox (Weber State), their No. 1 pick in this year's college draft. He was signed to a two-year deal before the draft.

The Riders other offseason coup was the reacquisition of place-kicker Dean Dorsey (Toronto), who returned to the team after an unsuccessful stint in the NFL with the Philadelphia Eagles and Green Bay Packers.

Three-year veteran Gerald Alphin (Kansas State) averaged more than 20 yards a catch (64 receptions for 1,307 yards: fifth-best in the league). Late-season addition Remi Watson (Bethune Cookman) also had a plus-20-yards receiving average on 23 catches and should be the front-runner for the other wideout. A potentially large problem at guard will be

solved if standout Nick Benjamin, who played out his option, can be re-signed.

Defensively, the acquisition of end Alex Carter (Tennessee State) from Edmonton in the equalization draft should shore up the front line, which also features Michel Bourgeau (Boise State), Loyd Lewis (Texas A & I), Michael Cline (Arkansas State), and Canadian Robert Weir (Southern Methodist). Dan Sellars (Cincinnati) departed to the New York Jets, but Johnny Lewis (Oklahoma) and Ezekial Gadson (Pittsburgh) return along with Ben Hummel (UCLA), the rush backer. The Riders also took Canadian Dwayne Derban (UBC) off the Lions' roster in the equalization auction.

In the secondary Derek White (Oklahoma) and Rod Brown (Oklahoma State) are tabbed as the cornerbacks, with Stephen Rehage (Louisiana State) and Troy Wilson (Notre Dame) as the halfbacks and Jerome Erdman as the rover. However, as Goldman keeps pointing out, nothing is definite with a team which has been as pathetic as the Riders.

WESTERN DIVISION

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

(10-8) The B.C. Lions are another team with more woes in the board room than on the playing field. They spent most of the winter embroiled in controversy when a private owner was sought for the publicly administered franchise. The Lions thought they had a buyer in Jim Patterson, but when he backed out of a

retain Donovan cost them the services of highly regarded assistant coach Adam Rita, who ran the team's offense. The sad irony of the Lions' front-office confusion is that the team is outstanding on the field.

Offensively, in quarterback Matt Dunigan (Louisiana Tech) and wide receiver David Williams (Illinois), who won the Schenley Award as the CFL's outstanding player last season, the Lions have the most explosive combination in the league. Dunigan, who came to the Lions at the beginning of last season from Edmonton for the high price of five players and a No. 1 draft pick, had the league's best pass-efficiency rating (81.6 percent) as he completed 268 passes for 4,113 yards. Of those totals, 83 went to Williams for a league-leading 1,468 yards. That combination so dominated the Lions' passing attack that the team's No. 2 receiver was Canadian slotback Scott Lecky, with 52 catches for 687 yards.

The Lions' attack, however, isn't limited to their passing game, despite the Dunigan-to-Williams aerial show. The twin Tonys—running back Anthony Cherry (Oregon) and fullback Anthony Parker (Memphis State)—provided a formidable ground game. They ranked three-fourth in the league, with Cherry picking up 889 yards on 149 carries and Parker gaining 851 yards on 142 attempts. How's that for a balanced running attack?

The running game could suffer if tackle Jim Mills (Hawaii) follows fellow Canadian Larry Clarkson (Montana), also a tackle, back for

ing down. However, Mack Moore (Texas A&M), 30, is coming off a solid season. He led the club with 11 quarterback sacks. The youngster among the starters is 26-year-old Canadian Brian Belway, although there's a new cub in the Lions' den: Derek MacCready (Ohio State), who was the team's No. 1 pick in this year's draft.

Anthony Drawhorn (Nevada-Las Vegas) will likely move from safety to cornerback to fill the vacancy left by the loss of Andre Francis to Edmonton. Marcus Thomas (Wyoming) replaces Drawhorn at safety. Larry Crawford (Iowa State) had offseason arthroscopic surgery on his knee but will be back to fill the other halfback spot, while Keith Gooch (Fresno State) remains at the other corner and Rick Ryan (Weber State) plays rover.

At 35, Lui Passaglia's range isn't what it used to be. His accuracy will keep him on as the punter and place-kicker, although the Lions will probably start grooming Anthony Martino (Kent State) as his eventual successor.

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

(11-7) Oh, joy on the prairies. The Roughriders made it into the playoffs after an 11-year drought. While they love their Roughriders as much as an abundant grain harvest, Saskatchewan's football fans were beginning to lose patience after more than a decade of incompetence. Attendance declined dramatically three years ago, and only some expert maneuvering by then GM Bill Baker kept the franchise going. He rebuilt a team which had finished with a 5-12-1 record in 1987 into a playoff contender. The Roughriders finished in a first-place tie with the Edmonton Eskimos. And although they were ousted in the Western Division semifinals by the third-place B.C. Lions, football in Saskatchewan seems well on its way to recovery.

Baker is gone, having been elected CFL president and chief operating officer. However, his successor, Al Ford, a former Roughrider player, and returning coach John Gregory know all too well that last year's success must not only be repeated but even improved upon if the revived fan interest is to be maintained.

After years of frustration in trying to come up with a quarterback, the 'Riders finally appear to have found their man in Kent Austin (Mississippi), who joined the club late in 1987 after an unsuccessful stint with the St. Louis Cardinals. He took over from Tom Burgess (Colgate) midway through last season and passed for 2,084 yards with a league-leading 58.5 percent completion ratio. Burgess is back, as is Jeff Bentrim (North Dakota State).

Austin's success was due in part to an outstanding receiving corps led by Schenley Award winner Ray Elgaard, who caught 69 passes for 1,290 yards. Elgaard was playing out his option and seeking a substantial raise to sign a new pact, but he was expected to come to terms and join another Canadian, Jeff Fairholm (Arizona), in giving the 'Riders a superb inside receiving game. Ray McDonald (Florida State) should hang onto one wide-receiver spot, but Don Narcisse (Texas Southern) will get competition from Dameon Reilly (Rhode Island) for the other job.

Aging Tim McCray (Tulane) and Milson Jones (North Dakota) are the incumbent backfield tandem, but rookies Shawn Daniels and Kevin Smellie, a Canadian who played at Massachusetts, will provide competition.



deal, the board of directors did the next best thing. They found a competent individual to run the club free from interference. Stu Kehoe, who had successfully run the Vancouver Canadians of the Pacific Coast (baseball) League, was given the title of executive vice president and the power to do what he has to do to reduce the club's \$8 million deficit. The task won't be easy. In 1988 the Lions, who averaged 45,000 fans just three years ago, saw their attendance dwindle to 25,600. That's some 10,000 ticket holders per game short of the team's break-even point.

Kehoe has, for now at least, retained Joe Galat as his general manager and Larry Donovan as head coach. The fact that Donovan returned as the field boss was a bit of a surprise to Lions' observers after his much criticized call in the Grey Cup game—a failed third-down gamble—which could well have cost them the championship. The decision to

another crack at the NFL. The 6-7, 300-pound Clarkson signed with the San Francisco 49ers, with whom he failed to catch on last season after being chosen in the eighth round of the NFL draft. Mills, who played with the Indianapolis Colts, is still under contract to the Lions, but he was seeking to be released if they didn't agree to a new contract.

Defensively, the Lions could suffer at linebacker, where they lost both Jeff Braswell and Greg Stumon to the Eskimos in the Dunigan deal. Kevin Konar and Bernie Glier and youngster Ed Ulmer, who hasn't lived up to expectations, are the returnees, although Donovan will surely have a number of new imports on hand to try to plug the holes left by the departure of Stumon and Braswell.

The line is aging with 31-year-old defensive end James "Quick" Parker (Wake Forest), not quite as quick as he once was, and 28-year-old Walter Ballard (Texas-El Paso) also slow-

Perhaps, the 'Riders' best offensive weapon after the Austin-to-Elgaard combination is the kicking of Dave Ridgway, who led the league in scoring last season, with 215 points, including 55 field goals.

Defensively, the 'Riders' may have the best front seven in the league. Last year they rotated five linemen in the four down spots. That's likely the way they'll go again this season. Bobby Jurasin (North Michigan) and Vince Goldsmith (Oregon State), who became a free agent but was expected to re-sign, are the ends, while James Curry (Nevada-Reno), Gary Lewis (Oklahoma State), and Canadian Rick Klassen (Simon Fraser) are the tackles. Curry is also an effective outside rusher.

Eddie Lowe (Alabama), now in his seventh season in Saskatchewan, heads the linebackers, along with David Albright (San Jose State) and Canadian Steve Crane. Competition will come from Chris Duliban (Texas) and June James (Texas), who impressed the coaches after joining the team near the end of last year. Both Lowe and Crane had become free agents but were expected to re-sign. However, the 'Riders' went over the \$3 million salary ceiling last season and were fined by the league. To cut back on their payroll in '89, they might be forced to release a veteran such as Lowe.

The 'Riders' weakness is undoubtedly their secondary, which lost all-star Joe Fuller (Northern Iowa) to the Minnesota Vikings. Cornerback Mike McGruder (Kent State) was also seeking employment and a more lucrative paycheck in the NFL. The departure of that pair would leave Gregory with a sizable rebuilding task, although he will have veterans Harry Skipper (South Carolina), Richie Hall (Colorado State), and homebrew Glen Sutor as a foundation.

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

(11-7) Some CFL clubs have been operated like a banana republic. No one knew for sure just who would be running the team, both in the front office and on the field, from season to season. Not so the Eskimos. Carefully thought-out, long-range planning has seen the team operate as smoothly as a firmly entrenched monarchy. Perhaps that's why it's been a successful franchise over the years.

Take, for example, the Eskimos' quarterback situation. If you go back a few years to when Tom Wilkinson was set to retire, they had Warren Moon ready in the wings. When Moon departed for the Houston Oilers, Matt Dunigan had matured into a capable pivot and leader. Last year, Dunigan opted to try his hand at baseball, à la Bo Jackson. The Eskimos were ready with Damon Allen and Tracy Ham. When Dunigan returned from his short-lived diamond career with the Montreal Expos, the Eskimos were in a position to deal him to the B.C. Lions and extract a minor fortune from their west coast rivals. The Eskimos obtained five players and the Lions' first pick in this year's college draft for Dunigan, and all five of those players will likely play an important role in Edmonton's run for the Grey Cup.

But go back for a moment to the quarterbacking position, where the Eskimos have always been strong. Allen, the younger brother of the Los Angeles Raiders' running back, Marcus Allen, played out his option last season after failing to come to terms on a new pact with Eskimos' general manager Hugh

Campbell. And when further offseason negotiations proved futile, Allen signed with quarterback-poor Ottawa, whose new head coach, Steve Goldman, had been the Eskimos' offensive coordinator until last year.

Campbell, however, didn't fret. The 25-year-old Ham (Georgia Southern) was ready to take over the offense and Steve Taylor (Nebraska) had spent a year as the No. 3 quarterback as he began his apprenticeship towards one day becoming the team's top pivot. In the meantime, Campbell also obtained Rick Worman (Eastern Michigan), from Calgary, as experienced backup insurance.

The Dunigan deal brought Edmonton linebacker Jeff Braswell (Iowa State), running back Reggie Taylor (Cincinnati), defensive end Greg Stumon (Southern Arkansas), cornerback Andre Francis (New Mexico State), and the draft pick who turned out to be Bishop University linebacker Leroy Blue. All, with the possible exception of Blue, will start.

Taylor will likely allow Edmonton to employ an import running back for the first time since Jim Germany was making life miserable for opposing defenses several seasons back. He will have to compete with newcomer Alvin Blount (Maryland), though. The fullback will be either Chris Johnstone (Bakersfield) or Blake Marshall. They'll be running behind a veteran line, where the only relative newcomer is second-year tackle Pierre Vercheval.

The biggest loss on offense will be at wide receiver, where Jim Sandusky (San Diego State) departed for the Seattle Seahawks and Henry "Gizmo" Williams left to join the Philadelphia Eagles. Sandusky caught 55 passes for 1,089 yards after coming over from B.C. as the initial payment for Dunigan. While Williams caught only 25 passes as a wide receiver, he was a crowd pleaser for his electrifying punt returns (96 for 964 yards). Competing for the vacant receiver jobs will be holdover Stephen Jones (Central Michigan), Jeremy Gordon (Grambling), Cornelius Redick (Fullerton State), and Keith Wright (Northridge State).

The addition of Stumon gives the Eskimos two superb outside pass rushers. The other is Stewart Hill (Washington), who returned to the Eskimos midway through last season after failing to land an NFL job. Inside Stumon and Hill will be Brent Williams (Austin Peay) and Canadian John Mandrich (Kent State).

Braswell will fill in at an outside-linebacker spot left open when Alex Carter was lost to Ottawa in the equalization draft. Dan Bass (Michigan State) returns as the middle linebacker after a fine season, his fifth as an Eskimo, while Brian Warren (Arizona) has developed at the other outside position. Blue will provide strong backup.

The only likely change in the secondary will see Francis starting at one corner in place of Steve Benjamin (Northridge State), providing that Francis signs with the Eskies. He's a free agent and was looking at NFL possibilities. But at 28 and 5-9 and 170 pounds, he may not attract much attention from south of the border. Stanley Blair (Southeast Oklahoma) will be the other cornerback with Ron Howard (Tennessee) and either Dan Taylor (Texas-El Paso) or veteran Cliff Toney (Auburn) at the halfbacks. Don Wilson was the rover last year, but he could be shifted to battle for a halfback spot if coach Joe Faragalli decides to go with a Canadian—Mark Norman or Junior Robinson—at that spot.

Jerry Kauric, who was third in the league in both punting and place-kicking, will again handle those chores.

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

(6-12) After years of futility the Stampeders finally appear to have come up with a take-charge quarterback in Erik Kramer (North Carolina State), who joined them in September after being released by the Atlanta Falcons. Kramer goes into training camp this season as the prime candidate for the No. 1 job, but he will have to fight off the challenge of Carl Fodor (Marshall), who carried the bulk of the quarterback load last season, and Kevin Murray (Texas A&M). There's also the possibility that former Stampeders' quarterback Rick Johnson (Southern Illinois) will put his acting career on hold for another shot at pro football.

While the quarterbacking picture may be stabilizing, coach Lary Kuharich could have a sizable problem if slotback Emanuel Tolbert (Southern Methodist) doesn't rejoin the club after playing out his option. Tolbert has put together three straight 1,000-yard receiving seasons with Calgary and at 30 isn't likely to command big dollars anywhere else. If Tolbert doesn't return, then the receiving chores will fall to Larry Wills (Fresno State), who tied Tolbert with exactly 1,328 yards last season, although he needed six more catches. Marc Lewis (Missouri Western), who came over from Ottawa late in the season, will battle the Smith boys, Brock (Fresno State) and Harvey (West Virginia), Craig Richardson (Eastern Washington), and Gabriel Johnson (Texas) for the other wideout position.

Canadian Kent Warnock (6-7, 270), who is entering his fourth season with the Stamps after a brief fling with the NFL's Pittsburgh Steelers, could be the key to the success of the defensive front. Just turned 25, he could be coming into his own as one of the league's premier linemen. The remainder of the line will be made up of incumbents Mitchell Price (Livingston) and Quency Williams (Auburn) at the ends and Tom Aldridge (Texas) at tackle. The Stamps will probably lose homebrew lineman Stu Laird to the local fire department unless some accommodation can be made.

The retirement of veteran Canadian linebacker Bernie Morrison, after an 11-year career, creates a vacancy on the outside. Import Lamont Jeffers (Tennessee) is the likely replacement, but by moving an American into that spot, Kuharich will have to find room for a Canadian in another area. Otherwise Canadian Dan Wicklund, who was with Winnipeg last season, will be given a chance at the position. Doug Landry (Louisiana Tech), who was obtained by the Stampeders midway through last season after he jumped ship with the Argonauts, will be the middle linebacker, while Ken Ford (Texas A & M) holds down the other outside position.

The secondary remains intact with Chris Major (South Carolina) and veteran Ron Hopkins (Murray State) manning the corners and David McCrary (Tennessee-Chattanooga) and Derrick Taylor (North Carolina State) at the safeties. Canadian Greg Peterson (BYU) will be the rover.

Marc McLoughlin and punter Glenn Harper (Washington State) will probably handle the kicking, although Harper had not signed a new contract as camp approached.

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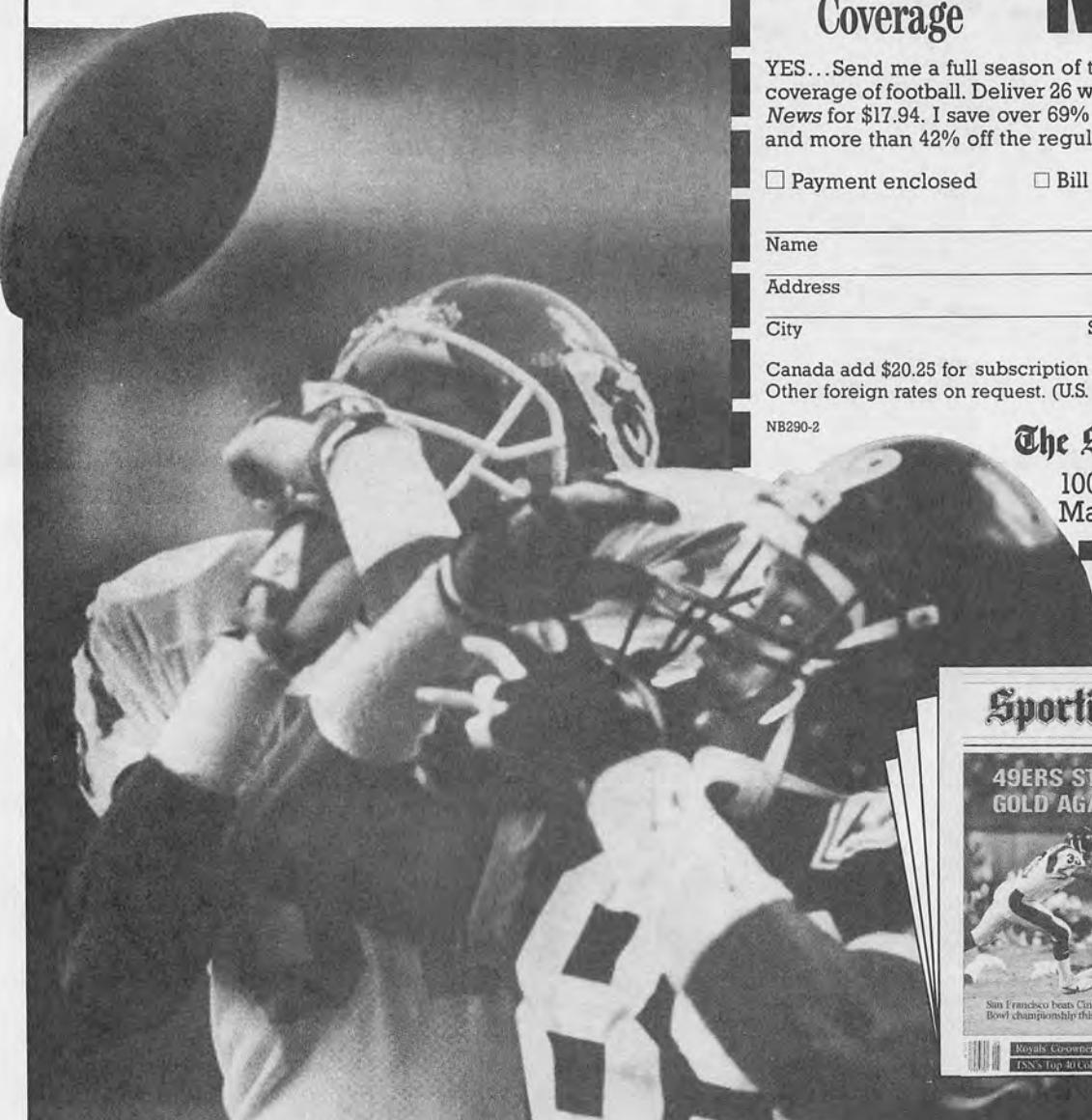
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NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1989

Sunday, September 10

Buffalo at Miami
Cincinnati at Chicago
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Dallas at New Orleans
Houston at Minnesota
Kansas City at Denver
L.A. Rams at Atlanta
New England at New York Jets
Phoenix at Detroit
San Diego at L.A. Raiders
San Francisco at Indianapolis
Seattle at Philadelphia
Tampa Bay at Green Bay

Monday, September 11
New York Giants at Washington (N)

Sunday, September 17
Dallas at Atlanta
Detroit at New York Giants
Houston at San Diego
Indianapolis at L.A. Rams
L.A. Raiders at Kansas City
Miami at New England
Minnesota at Chicago
New Orleans at Green Bay
New York Jets at Cleveland
Philadelphia at Washington
Phoenix at Seattle
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
San Francisco at Tampa Bay

Monday, September 18
Denver at Buffalo (N)

Sunday, September 24
Atlanta at Indianapolis
Buffalo at Houston
Chicago at Detroit
Green Bay at L.A. Rams
Kansas City at San Diego
L.A. Raiders at Denver
Minnesota at Pittsburgh
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
New York Jets at Miami
Phoenix at New York Giants
San Francisco at Philadelphia
Seattle at New England
Washington at Dallas

Monday, September 25
Cleveland at Cincinnati (N)

Sunday, October 1

Atlanta vs. Green Bay (Milw.)
Cincinnati at Kansas City
Denver at Cleveland
Indianapolis at New York Jets
L.A. Rams at San Francisco
Miami at Houston
New England at Buffalo
New York Giants at Dallas
Pittsburgh at Detroit
San Diego at Phoenix
Seattle at L.A. Raiders
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
Washington at New Orleans

Monday, October 2
Philadelphia at Chicago (N)

Sunday, October 8
Atlanta at L.A. Rams
Buffalo at Indianapolis
Chicago at Tampa Bay
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Cleveland at Miami
Dallas at Green Bay
Detroit at Minnesota
Houston at New England
Kansas City at Seattle
New Orleans at San Francisco
New York Giants at Philadelphia
Phoenix at Washington
San Diego at Denver

Monday, October 9
L.A. Raiders at New York Jets (N)

Sunday, October 15
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Green Bay at Minnesota
Houston at Chicago
Indianapolis at Denver
Kansas City at L.A. Raiders
Miami at Cincinnati
New England at Atlanta
New York Jets at New Orleans
Philadelphia at Phoenix
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
San Francisco at Dallas
Seattle at San Diego
Washington at New York Giants

Monday, October 16
L.A. Rams at Buffalo (N)

Sunday, October 22
Atlanta at Phoenix
Dallas at Kansas City
Denver at Seattle
Green Bay at Miami
Indianapolis at Cincinnati
L.A. Raiders at Philadelphia
Minnesota at Detroit
New England at San Francisco
New Orleans at L.A. Rams
New York Giants at San Diego
New York Jets at Buffalo
Pittsburgh at Houston
Tampa Bay at Washington

Monday, October 23
Chicago at Cleveland (N)

Sunday, October 29
Atlanta at New Orleans
Detroit vs. Green Bay (Milw.)
Houston at Cleveland
Kansas City at Pittsburgh
L.A. Rams at Chicago
Miami at Buffalo
New England at Indianapolis
Philadelphia at Denver
Phoenix at Dallas
San Diego at Seattle
San Francisco at New York Jets
Tampa Bay at Cincinnati
Washington at L.A. Raiders

Monday, October 30
Minnesota at New York Giants (N)

Sunday, November 5
Buffalo at Atlanta
Chicago at Green Bay
Cincinnati at L.A. Raiders
Cleveland at Tampa Bay
Detroit at Houston
Indianapolis at Miami
L.A. Rams at Minnesota
New York Giants at Phoenix
New York Jets at New England
Philadelphia at San Diego
Pittsburgh at Denver
Seattle at Kansas City
Dallas at Washington (N)

Monday, November 6
San Francisco at New Orleans (N)

Sunday, November 12
Atlanta at San Francisco
Chicago at Pittsburgh
Cleveland at Seattle
Dallas at Phoenix
Denver at Kansas City
Green Bay at Detroit
Indianapolis at Buffalo
Miami at New York Jets
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
New Orleans at New England
New York Giants at L.A. Rams
Washington at Philadelphia
L.A. Raiders at San Diego (N)

Monday, November 13
Cincinnati at Houston (N)

Sunday, November 19
Buffalo at New England
Detroit at Cincinnati
Green Bay at San Francisco
Kansas City at Cleveland
L.A. Raiders at Houston
Miami at Dallas
Minnesota at Philadelphia
New Orleans at Atlanta
Phoenix at L.A. Rams
San Diego at Pittsburgh
Seattle at New York Giants
Tampa Bay at Houston
New York Jets at Indianapolis (N)

Monday, November 20
Denver at Washington (N)

Thursday, November 23
Cleveland at Detroit
Philadelphia at Dallas

Sunday, November 26
Atlanta at New York Jets
Chicago at Washington
Cincinnati at Buffalo
Houston at Kansas City
Minnesota vs. Green Bay (Milw.)
New England at L.A. Raiders
Pittsburgh at Miami
San Diego at Indianapolis
Seattle at Denver
Tampa Bay at Phoenix
L.A. Rams at New Orleans (N)

Monday, November 27
New York Giants at San Francisco (N)

Sunday, December 3
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Denver at L.A. Raiders
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
Houston at Pittsburgh
Indianapolis at New England
L.A. Rams at Dallas
Miami at Kansas City
New Orleans at Detroit
New York Jets at San Diego
Philadelphia at New York Giants
San Francisco at Atlanta
Washington at Phoenix
Chicago at Minnesota (N)

Monday, December 4
Buffalo at Seattle (N)

Sunday, December 10
Atlanta at Minnesota
Cleveland at Indianapolis
Dallas at Philadelphia
Detroit at Chicago
Kansas City at Green Bay
New Orleans at Buffalo
New York Giants at Denver
Phoenix at L.A. Raiders
Pittsburgh at New York Jets
San Diego at Washington
Seattle at Cincinnati
Tampa Bay at Houston
New England at Miami (N)

Monday, December 11
San Francisco at L.A. Rams (N)

Saturday, December 16
Dallas at New York Giants
Denver at Phoenix

Sunday, December 17
Buffalo at San Francisco
Green Bay at Chicago
Houston at Cincinnati
Miami at Indianapolis
Minnesota at Cleveland
New England at Pittsburgh
New York Jets at L.A. Rams
San Diego at Kansas City
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Washington at Atlanta
L.A. Raiders at Seattle (N)

Monday, December 18
Philadelphia at New Orleans (N)

Saturday, December 23
Buffalo at New York Jets
Washington at Seattle
Cleveland at Houston (N)

Sunday, December 24
Chicago at San Francisco
Denver at San Diego
Detroit at Atlanta
Green Bay at Dallas
Indianapolis at New Orleans
Kansas City at Miami
L.A. Raiders at New York Giants
L.A. Rams at New England
Phoenix at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay

Monday, December 25
Cincinnati at Minnesota (N)

Sunday, December 31
First-Round Playoffs

Saturday, January 6
Sunday, January 7

Divisional Playoffs

Sunday, January 14
NFC & AFC Championships

Sunday, January 28
Super Bowl XXIV
(Superdome/New Orleans, LA)

Sunday, February 4
NFC-AFC Pro Bowl
(Honolulu, HI)

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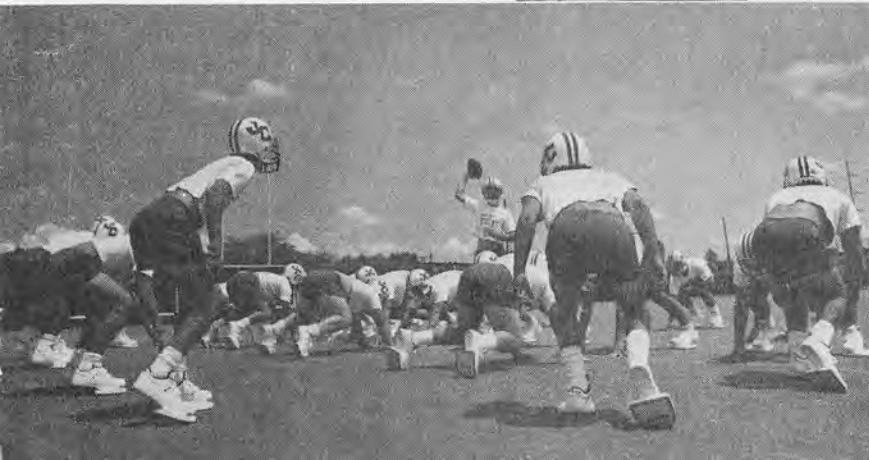
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CENTRAL

1. Minnesota Vikings
 2. Chicago Bears
 3. Green Bay Packers
 4. Detroit Lions
 5. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Wild Card Teams—Chicago Bears, San Francisco 49ers
 NFC Champion—Minnesota Vikings

by DON PIERSON

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The top nine quarterback sackers last season played in the National Football Conference. The top three defenses were from the NFC. The Super Bowl champion came from the NFC for the fifth consecutive year and the seventh in the last eight.

There is a correlation going on here between defense and winning that is older than dirt but not yet discovered by all who own football teams for business or pleasure. There also is a correlation between big defenses and good defenses that the NFC seems to have noticed most.

Despite the continuing efforts of rule-makers to make most forms of conventional defense illegal, defense always manages to find its way to the top. Defense simply cannot be stopped. The art of stopping offenses remains the best method of going places. And the NFC remains the place where defense is practiced best.

When Bill Walsh decided to retire to watch the world champion San Francisco 49ers from upstairs, his defensive coordinator had to be stopped in an airport to keep him from getting away to the AFC. George Seifert, who never got the credit he deserved for the 49ers' super decade, was on his way to Cleveland to interview for the top job. He was also mentioned as a candidate in San Diego and Kansas City. Three AFC defensive coordinators were fired last season: Pittsburgh's Tony Dungy, Indianapolis' George Hill, and Denver's Joe Collier. Three NFC defensive coordinators—Chicago's Bill Tobin, the Rams' Fritz Shurmur, and Minnesota's Floyd Peters—were candidates for the top jobs in AFC cities.

Philadelphia's Buddy Ryan, the unconventional defensive mind of the 1985 Bears, won the NFC East with the Eagles despite a defense that finished 27th in the league and 28th against the pass. How did he do it? For one thing, he had the best defensive player in football, Reggie White, who led the league with 18 sacks. The Eagles finished second in the

league in interceptions, takeaways, and turnover differential. Such big-play defense was enough to keep offenses out of the end zone. The Eagles were one of seven NFC teams among the top 10 in scoring defense.

Give the AFC Reggie White or the New York Giants' pass-rushing specialist Lawrence Taylor and things would be different, right? Not necessarily. How about the Rams' Kevin Greene, who finished second to White in sacks with 16½? He was a fifth-round former United States Football League player that any defense could have had. What about Phoenix's Freddie Joe Nunn, a former linebacker switched to defensive end, who was fourth behind White, Greene, and Taylor with 14 sacks? What about Green Bay's Tim Harris, Detroit's Mike Cofer, or San Francisco's Charles Haley—three pass-rushing linebackers drafted, respectively, in the fourth, third, and fourth rounds who finished fifth, sixth, and seventh in sacks?

What about the future? Atlanta's Aundray Bruce was last year's No. 1 draft choice and combined with teammate Marcus Cotton for a rookie-high 11 sacks. There were nine defensive linemen or linebackers selected in the first round of the last draft, six by the NFC.

The last five Super Bowl losers—Cincinnati, Denver, New England, and Miami—all had undersized defensive lines. That's why Denver bid \$7.5 million for Buffalo end Bruce Smith in a free-agent deal that the Bills matched. Chicago bid \$4.75 million for Houston end Ray Childress in another free-agent maneuver the Oilers matched.

Why do the Bears need help up front? Is there no end to their greed? They already have Richard Dent, Dan Hampton, and Steve McMichael. Now they've drafted Trace Arm-

strong No. 1 to join them. The Minnesota Vikings beat out the Bears in overall defense last year and they are looking for someone to join Keith Millard, Chris Doleman, and Henry Thomas on their line.

Bears' coach Mike Ditka has wanted another pass rusher for the past three drafts. The last time he took one was in 1985, and William "The Refrigerator" Perry helped the Bears get to the Super Bowl. Ditka has watched in horror while his defensive line ages before his eyes. It reminds him too much of Pittsburgh, Dallas, and Minnesota, where dynasties folded first along the defensive line. The Steel Curtain rusted. The Cowboys' Flex flopped. The Purple People Eaters went on a crash diet. Three teams that dominated the 1970s faltered through the 1980s mainly because their defensive fronts got to the point where they had to be propped up like movie sets.

Those teams didn't build their defensive lines by accident. The Vikings drafted Carl Eller and Alan Page in the '60s with the idea they would provide a foundation for greatness. The Steelers started their dominance by drafting pass rushers Joe Greene and L.C. Greenwood the year before they got passer Terry Bradshaw. The last time the Cowboys had the No. 1 pick in the whole draft before quarterback Troy Aikman was in 1974. They took Ed "Too Tall" Jones, and he's still their best defensive lineman. In 1975, the Cowboys drafted defensive tackle Randy White ahead of Walter Payton. All those teams realized the importance of defensive lines and how difficult it is to keep them.

The number of great pass rushers in the NFC has led to an interesting, vicious cycle. The more pass rushers emerge, the more pass blockers follow. Green Bay's selection of offensive tackle Tony Mandarich was in keeping with a trend in the NFC Central Division that can be traced to the 1983 Bears' draft of Covert and Dent. The Bears lucked out with the eighth-round selection of Dent, who started a chain reaction. After establishing himself in 1984 as a supreme pass rusher, Dent sent the rest of the division scrambling to protect themselves. Not only did they need to protect their quarterbacks from Dent, they all wanted rushers like Dent on their side.

In 1984, the Vikings selected Millard, although they lost him momentarily to the United States Football League. In 1985, the Lions selected Lomas Brown to play left tackle and face Dent. The Vikings took linebacker Doleman with the idea he might eventually become a down lineman like Dent. The Packers selected Ken Ruettgers to play left tackle. By 1986, the Vikings traded with the Giants to get the USFL rights to left tackle Gary Zimmerman. Green Bay selected Harris to be their Dent. In 1988, the Buccaneers selected Paul Gruber to play left tackle and block Harris and Dent. With his five-year, \$3.8 million contract, Gruber set a standard for offensive-line pay that Mandarich is committed to raising.

It can be argued that the NFC Central will soon boast the five best left tackles in football—Covert, Brown, Zimmerman, Gruber, and Mandarich—and Dent is the man to blame. When the Giants fell to 6-9 following their Super Bowl title, they drafted two huge offensive tackles, Eric Moore and John Elliott, and followed those selections this year with two more offensive linemen, Brian Williams and Bob Kratch. To bolster their fight to repeat

last year, the Redskins traded a quarterback, Jay Schroeder, to get a left tackle, Jim Lachey. The 49ers were able to win last year for many reasons, not the least of which were the fast development of second-year offensive tackle Harris Barton and the immediate pass-rush help from two rookies. Danny Stubbs and Pierce Holt were second-rounders who played better than the five first-round defensive linemen selected by AFC teams: Kansas City's Neil Smith, Miami's Eric Kumerow, Pittsburgh's Aaron Jones, the Raiders' Scott Davis, and Denver's Ted Gregory.

It is a big-man's game and the NFC has better big men than the AFC.

EASTERN DIVISION

The Eagles will be hard-pressed to repeat in the league's most balanced division, which hasn't had a back-to-back champion since the '83-'84 Redskins. Accused of cashing in on luck last year, the Eagles still boast football's most dangerous offensive weapon in quarterback Randall Cunningham and the best defensive player in Reggie White, provided he can work out his contract problems.

The Redskins and the Giants are both poised to reclaim the top spot and will open the Monday Night Football season in RFK. The Redskins added proven running backs Gerald Riggs and Earnest Byner and the Giants must regain the running and intense defense that made them winners.

Jimmy Johnson's hair has replaced Tom Landry's hat in Dallas, where one soon will prove as vulnerable a target as the other. Johnson knows other coaches can't wait to set their sights on the college hotshot, meaning him as well as the Cowboys' rich No. 1 draft choice, Aikman.

The Cardinals are in the midst of a five-game losing streak they must break before Phoenix fans will continue to take them seriously at \$38 a ticket.

CENTRAL DIVISION

The Vikings added erstwhile Pittsburgh linebacker Mike Merriweather, the player coach Jerry Burns thinks might put them in the Super Bowl. Nine Pro Bowl selections last year showed the Vikings have talent everywhere you look. They even beat the Bears three times last year (counting preseason). Yet they couldn't beat the Packers. What's missing?

The Bears had 20 draft choices to add to their 12-4 team, unfair to the have-nots. But they can't decide who their quarterback should be. There is still never a dull moment with this franchise, the NFL's most popular for the fourth straight season, according to licensed merchandise sold and monitored by NFL Properties. The Redskins were second, Raiders third, Browns fourth, and Giants fifth. Where are those 49er fans?

The Lions, Buccaneers, and Packers will be trying to break into the Big Two in the Central, but it doesn't appear that one is any better than the other two. New Detroit coach Wayne Fontes has revamped his offensive philosophy and will try to "run-and-shoot" his way past the Viking and Bear defenses. Green Bay added 20 prospects from the unprotected lists, and Mandarich should protect the quarterback, but it would be better if he played quarterback. The Bucs hope their quarterback, Vinny Testaverde, can find those orange jerseys more consistently.

WEST DIVISION

Is this the year the Rams finally get past the 49ers? Can the Saints take the next step up from respectability? Can the Falcons get out of fourth place? Conventional wisdom answers no to all three questions, but the wiser observer thinks yes to at least one of them—you pick it.

One wild scramble by Steve Young against the Vikings enabled the 49ers to become the Team of the Decade (unless the Redskins win it all this year). If the past teaches anything about the future, new coach George Seifert will have the same transition problems all new coaches have, even though he has been with San Francisco for 10 years.

The Rams are realizing the final payment from the Eric Dickerson trade. But will it pay off? Quarterback Jim Everett has to win the big game to make believers in L.A. Likewise the Saints and Bobby Hebert, the gutsy quarterback who still doesn't appear to have enough speed or big-play capability surrounding him. As for the Falcons, winning little games will do just fine for the time being, thank you. Their time will come.

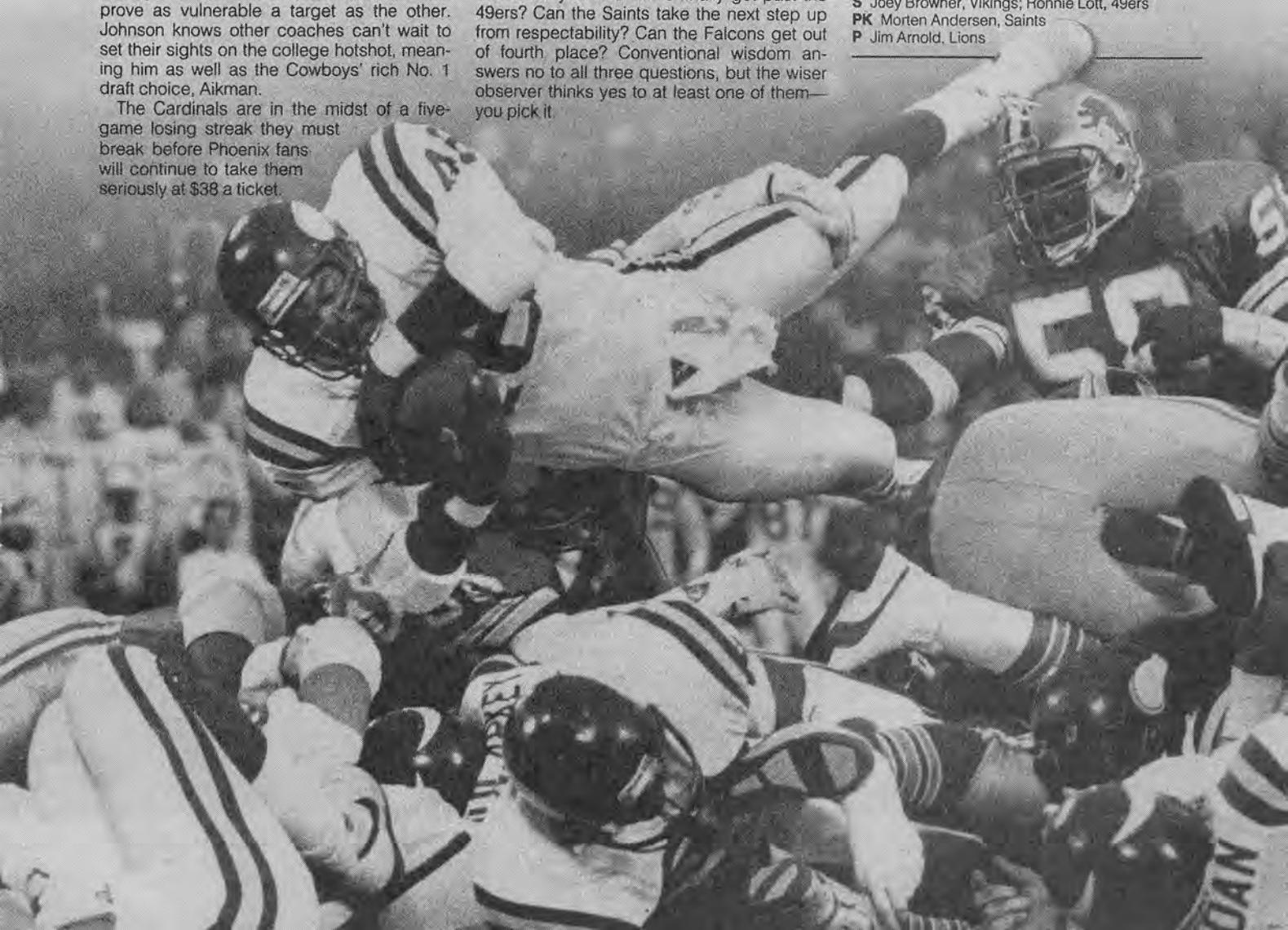
1989 ALL-NFC TEAM

OFFENSE

WR Anthony Carter, Vikings; Jerry Rice, 49ers
TE Steve Jordan, Vikings
OT Paul Gruber, Buccaneers; Harris Barton, 49ers
OG Tom Newberry, Rams; Mark Bortz, Bears
C Jay Hilgenberg, Bears
QB Randall Cunningham, Eagles
RB Herschel Walker, Cowboys; Roger Craig, 49ers

DEFENSE

DE Richard Dent, Bears; Lawrence Taylor, Giants
DT Reggie White, Eagles; Keith Millard, Vikings
LB Tim Harris, Packers; Mike Singletary, Bears; Mike Cofer, Lions; Aundray Bruce, Falcons
CB Carl Lee, Vikings; Scott Case, Falcons
S Joey Browner, Vikings; Ronnie Lott, 49ers
PK Morten Andersen, Saints
P Jim Arnold, Lions



NFC west

LOS ANGELES RAMS

The hot-and-cold Rams are ready for another temperature check. Will they be the team that won its last three games, including a romp over the 49ers, or the team that lost badly to the Vikings in the wild-card playoff? Will they be the team that started out 7-2 or the team that lost four in a row?

Coach John Robinson's Rams are in a rut, albeit a lofty one. They have made the playoffs five times in the last six years yet advanced to the NFC title game only once. This trend of early exits reached a height of frustration last season when the Rams beat both the Bears and 49ers in the final three weeks of the season and entered the playoffs with the longest win streak of any team, three games, only to get rudely bounced by the Vikings. When Robinson was photographed leaving the Minnesota field smiling, with his arm around Viking and former Southern Cal star Joey Browner, some Ram fans started to wonder. Perhaps they would have felt better had Robinson punched out Browner.

The long-departed Eric Dickerson is still rebuilding the Rams, and Robinson is hardly missing a beat, an accomplishment that sometimes gets lost in the transition. Although Dickerson has been gone for a season and a half, the Rams will remain his team until the careers of eight players are written. One, Owen Gill, is already gone. Another, Greg Bell, finished fourth in the league in rushing last season, a testimony to Robinson's system. The remaining six are draft choices garnered from Indianapolis and Buffalo in the three-way deal that sent linebacker Cornelius Bennett to Buffalo and Dickerson to Indy. The three draft choices last year were Gaston Green, Aaron Cox, and Fred Strickland. The three this year are Cleveland Gary, Frank Stams, and Darryl Henley. Two running backs, two linebackers, a wide receiver, and a cornerback. A mini-team capable of putting on its own backyard scrimmage.

In addition, the Rams had their own No. 1 and No. 2 this year and added two more defensive players, end Bill Hawkins and linebacker Brian Smith, in an effort to shore up a small front seven. Two other second-rounders from last year, safety Anthony Newman and receiver Willie Anderson, both contributed.

Add the last two years up and the Rams have virtually restructured their entire team without suffering through an extended period of losing seasons.

"We need to get into that top level," Robinson said. "We can get up there. I feel the organization has made some dramatic improvements from when the Eric Dickerson episode happened. I think there's every reason to expect the Rams will be a major force in this league over the next three to five years."

In the middle of the effort is quarterback Jim Everett, the man obtained from Houston who

JIM EVERETT

RAMS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lansford, 117 points on 45 extra points and 24 field goals... 2nd
RUSHING—Bell, 1,212 yards on 288 carries, 4.2 avg., 16 TDs... 3rd
PASSING—Everett, 308 of 517 attempts for 3,964 yards and 31 TDs... 2nd
RECEIVING—Ellard, 86 receptions for 1,414 yards, 16.4 avg., 10 TDs... 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Johnson, 4 for 18 yards, 4.5 avg... 22nd
PUNTING—Camarillo, 40 punts, 39.5 avg., longest 57 yards... 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Hicks, 25 for 144 yards, 5.8 avg... 12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Brown, 19 for 401 yards, 21.1 avg... unranked
SACKS—Greene, 16.5... 2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	San Francisco at Tokyo, Japan (N)
	12	At Denver (N)
	21	PHOENIX (N)
	26	MINNESOTA (N)
September	2	DETROIT (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

		1988 SCORES
September	10	at Atlanta
	17	INDIANAPOLIS
	24	GREEN BAY
October	1	at San Francisco
	8	ATLANTA
	16	at Buffalo (N)
	22	NEW ORLEANS
	29	at Chicago
November	5	at Minnesota
	12	NEW YORK GIANTS
	19	PHOENIX
	26	at New Orleans (N)
December	3	at Dallas
	11	SAN FRANCISCO (N)
	17	NEW YORK JETS
	24	at New England

made the Dickerson trade possible. Under offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese, Everett emerged as the No. 4 passer in the league. His 31 touchdowns were tops. The Rams' offense ranked third overall and third in passing. "We've made great strides there. Most of the people involved in the passing game are very young and will be here for a long period of time," Robinson said.

Everett still must prove he can step up to the top level by making big plays in big games. He threw last-minute interceptions in games against Philadelphia and New Orleans. His two interceptions against Minnesota by Browner took the Rams out early. His 26 incompletions against the Vikings were a season-high. Everett threw 517 of the team's 522 passes, leaving only five for backup Mark Herrmann, who will get a challenge from fourth-round draftee Jeff Carlson. Everett was in a minority of starting quarterbacks who managed to stay healthy throughout the season.

Receiver Henry Ellard had a terrific year with 86 catches for 1,414 yards and 10 touchdowns, putting him ahead of San Francisco's Jerry Rice in all three categories. Only the

Jets' Al Toon had more catches. Two of the reasons Ellard enjoyed such a season were rookie deep threats Cox and Anderson and tight ends Pete Holahan and Damone Johnson, who caught 101 passes between them. The pleasant surprise of fifth-round speed back Robert Delpino, who had 30 receptions, gave the offense another dimension. Gary, a 230-pound fullback, catches the ball at least as well as he runs inside, so Zampese is looking forward to yet another weapon.

Robinson has wanted a big back to "move the pile" ahead of the tailback. Gary will get a chance to do it ahead of either Bell, Green, or Delpino. The Rams would like to see Green justify his No. 1 pick by beating out Bell, but the jury remains out.

The Rams' traditionally big and strong offensive line is showing age but not much wear yet. Tackles Jackie Slater (35) and Irv Pankey (31) and center Doug Smith (33) are three reasons Everett stays on his feet. Left guard Tom Newberry joined Slater and Smith in the Pro Bowl for the first time last season. It is not expected to be his last trip. Duval Love is the other guard, and backups Robert Cox and Tony Slaton will be joined by third-round draft choice Kevin Robbins, Michigan State's tackle opposite Tony Mandarich.

Hawkins will add size to a defense that desperately needs it up front, although the Miami end has more height (6-6) than bulk. But even at a relatively light 260 pounds, he is heavier than any of the front three starters last year: Alvin Wright, Shawn Miller, and Doug Reed. The depth on the line was decimated by the unprotected scramble, with Greg Meisner, Gary Jeter, and Fred Stokes departing. The Rams added Henry Brown and Byron Darby.

Although the Rams led the league in quarterback sacks, with 56, only seven came from the starting linemen. Defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur went to an "Eagle" alignment to exploit the quickness of his linebackers. Kevin Greene came from nowhere to lead the club with 16½ sacks and Strickland had four in the last two games when he lined up between guard and center. Outside backer Mike Wilcher had 7½ and Mel Owens five before he was hurt. With 35-year-old leading tackler Carl Ekern inside with Strickland and the addition of second-rounders Smith and Stams, plus sixth-rounders Mark Messner, linebacker should be a real strength.

At free safety, the Rams lost Johnnie Johnson, but Newman is ready. Michael Stewart

did a good job replacing the injured Vince Newsome at strong safety. Cornerback LeRoy Irvin is 32, so rookie Henley could have a job there opposite Jerry Gray, unless Gray is better suited for safety. The Rams signed Lou Brock Jr. to compete with Clifford Hicks for a backup spot at the corner.

The Rams could improve in all special teams. They had speed in kickoff returner Ron Brown, Green, and Delpino, but not great averages. The punt returns of Hicks and Ellard lagged and neither place-kicker Mike Lansford nor punter Dale Hatcher had banner years. Lansford scored a lot of points, but five of his eight missed field goals were from under 40 yards.

RAMS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
83 Anderson, Willie	WR	6-0	169	24	UCLA
42 Bell, Greg	RB	5-10	210	27	Notre Dame
69 Brown, Ron	WR	5-11	181	28	Arizona State
50 Collins, Jim	LB	6-2	233	31	Syracuse
84 Cox, Aaron	WR	5-9	174	24	Arizona State
72 Cox, Robert	T	6-5	270	26	UCLA
39 Delpino, Robert	FB	6-0	205	27	Missouri
55 Ekern, Carl	LB	6-3	222	35	San Jose St.
80 Ellard, Henry	WR	5-11	175	28	Fresno State
87 Embree, Jon	TE	6-2	237	23	Colorado
11 Everett, Jim	QB	6-5	212	26	Purdue
51 Faryniarz, Brett	LB	6-3	225	24	San Diego St.
25 Gray, Jerry	CB	6-0	185	27	Texas
30 Green, Gaston	RB	5-10	189	23	UCLA
91 Greene, Kevin	LB	6-3	238	27	Auburn
44 Guman, Mike	FB	6-2	216	31	Penn State
5 Hatcher, Dale	P	6-2	211	26	Clemson
9 Herrmann, Mark	QB	6-4	186	30	Purdue
28 Hicks, Clifford	CB	5-10	188	25	Oregon
81 Holahan, Pete	TE	6-4	232	30	Notre Dame
47 Irvin, LeRoy	CB	5-11	184	32	Kansas
59 Jere, Mark	LB	6-3	234	28	Washington
86 Johnson, Damone	TE	6-4	230	27	Cal Poly SLO
20 Johnson, Johnnie	S	6-1	183	33	Texas
27 Jones, Keith	RB	5-10	182	23	Nebraska
52 Kelm, Larry	LB	6-4	226	25	Texas A&M
1 Lansford, Mike	PK	6-0	183	31	Washington
67 Love, Duval	G	6-3	280	26	UCLA
90 McDonald, Mike	LB	6-1	235	21	USC
24 McGee, Buford	RB	6-0	206	29	Mississippi
69 Meisner, Greg	NT	6-3	265	30	Pittsburgh
98 Miller, Shawn	DE	6-4	255	28	Utah State
79 Mullin, R.C.	T	6-6	300	24	SW Louisiana
66 Newberry, Tom	G	6-2	279	27	Wis-Cross
26 Newman, Anthony	CB	6-0	199	24	Oregon
22 Newsome, Vince	S	6-1	183	27	Washington
58 Owens, Mel	LB	6-2	224	30	Michigan
75 Pankey, Irv	T	6-5	267	31	Penn State
95 Piel, Mike	DE	6-4	263	24	Illinois
93 Reed, Doug	DE	6-3	250	29	San Diego St.
82 Sievers, Eric	TE	6-3	238	32	Maryland
78 Slater, Jackie	T	6-4	275	35	Jackson State
61 Slaton, Tony	OL	6-3	265	28	Southern Cal
56 Smith, Doug	C	6-3	260	33	Bowling Green
23 Stewart, Michael	S	5-11	195	24	Fresno State
65 Stokes, Fred	DE	6-3	265	24	Ga. Southern
53 Strickland, Fred	LB	6-2	224	23	Purdue
49 Sutton, Mickey	CB	5-8	165	29	Monterey
32 Tyrell, Tim	FB	6-1	206	28	N. Illinois
37 Washington, James	S	6-1	191	24	UCLA
54 Wilcher, Mike	LB	6-3	240	29	North Carolina
99 Wright, Alvin	NT	6-2	256	28	Jacksonville St.
88 Young, Michael	WR	6-1	183	26	UCLA

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Hawkins, Bill	DE	6-6	260	Miami
1	Gary, Cleveland	RB	6-0	230	Miami
2	Stams, Frank	LB	6-2	230	Notre Dame
2	Smith, Brian	LB	6-6	245	Auburn
2	Henley, Darryl	CB	5-8	165	UCLA
3	Robbins, Kevin	OT	6-5	285	Michigan St.
4	Carlson, Jeff	OB	6-3	208	Weber State
5	Jackson, Alfred	WR	5-11	175	San Diego St.
6	Kaumeyer, Thom	DB	5-11	187	Oregon
6	Messner, Mark	LB	6-3	251	Michigan
7	Bethune, George	LB	6-4	238	Alabama
8	Wheat, Warren	OT	6-6	255	Brigham Young
9	Kirk, Vernon	TE	6-1	255	Pittsburgh
10	Williams, Mike	WR	5-10	177	Northeastern



HENRY ELLARD



GREG BELL

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

George Seifert has no chance, of course. The 49ers cannot repeat, and even if they do, Bill Walsh is likely to get credit for leaving his successor such a wonderful nucleus with which to work. Seifert has promised to be his own man and Walsh has promised to stay locked in his front office and go home early. Seifert claims he won't use Walsh's famous scripted game plan for the first 25 plays, except for the part that says, "Throw, Joe. Catch, Jerry."

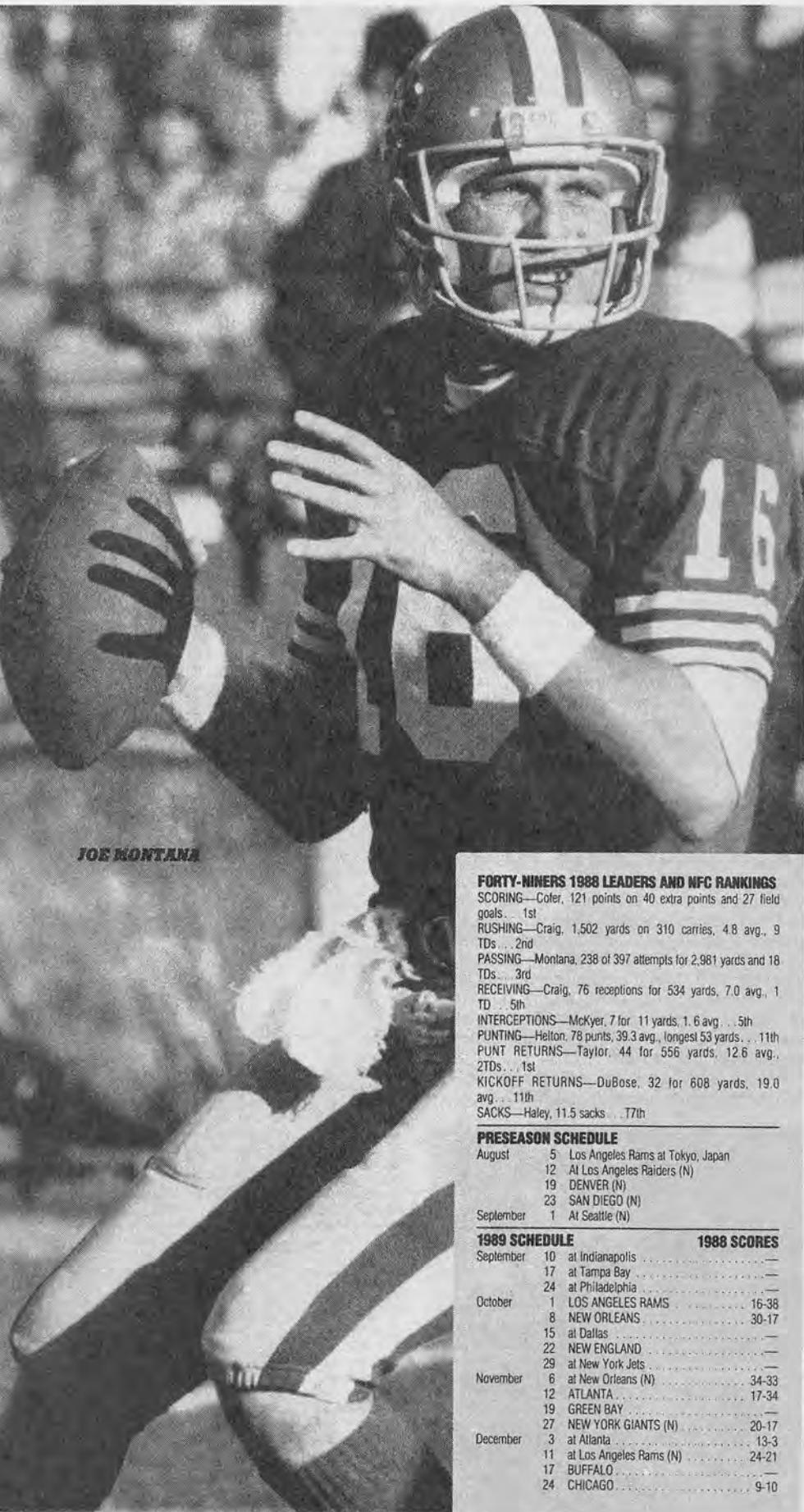
If Joe Montana is the quarterback and Jerry Rice is the receiver, does anything else matter? Probably. The Super Bowl trophy wasn't in its case before Rice complained that he wasn't getting as much ink as Montana. Talk about going to Disneyland—Rice was already there. But potential distractions and controversy are obstacles both Montana and Rice are capable of surmounting with enviable skill.

"Jerry is a very, very young man," Walsh said by way of explanation for his hasty complaint. It also was a cruel reminder for opponents who must figure out how to stop him for years to come.

No other team ranked higher in both offense (second) and defense (third) than the 49ers. And it is defense that enables Montana and Rice to be most effective. Seifert was the 49ers' defensive coordinator for six years. The infusion of young defensive talent was instrumental in the 49ers' success last year. Second-round draft choices Danny Stubbs and Pierce Holt combined for 11 sacks and were both voted to all-rookie teams ahead of several first-round pass rushers. Third-round linebacker Bill Romanowski also had an impact, a tribute to the continued drafting skill of the 49ers under the direction of Tony Razzano. This year, they landed Tennessee linebacker Keith DeLong with the last pick in the first round and called him another Jack "Hacksaw" Reynolds. Drafting late doesn't seem to bother the 49ers, who traded up for Rice following their 1984 Super Bowl victory and didn't even have a first-round pick in 1988.

If there is any justice, Montana's Super Bowl performance last year will allow him to start this season and someday finish his career without ever hearing another boo. He has earned the right to live in bliss, with no controversy attached to his million-dollar salary. He has won his way to the top, where the names of Starr, Bradshaw, Unitas, Graham, and Luckman are found. But Joe knows it won't be so. The quarterback is always the first target of praise and rage. For some fans, his first incompletion will erase the memory of that perfect strike to John Taylor in the end zone.

Seifert cut short quarterback questions during his first press conference as a head coach by quickly saying, "Let's not start that one. Joe's our starter." At 33, Montana appears to be in his prime, no consolation to Steve Young, who will be 28 by season's end. Being "the best backup in the league" is not the way Young wants to be remembered. And lest anyone forget, it was Young who made Montana's latest brush with immortality possible. Had Young not scrambled 49 yards to beat the Minnesota Vikings in the final minute of a game October 30, the 49ers wouldn't have even made the playoffs and Montana would



JOE MONTANA

FORTY-NINERS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Cofer, 121 points on 40 extra points and 27 field goals... 1st
 RUSHING—Craig, 1,502 yards on 310 carries, 4.8 avg., 9 TDs... 2nd
 PASSING—Montana, 238 of 397 attempts for 2,981 yards and 18 TDs... 3rd
 RECEIVING—Craig, 76 receptions for 534 yards, 7.0 avg., 1 TD... 5th
 INTERCEPTIONS—McKyer, 7 for 11 yards, 1.6 avg... 5th
 PUNTING—Helton, 78 punts, 39.3 avg., longest 53 yards... 11th
 PUNT RETURNS—Taylor, 44 for 556 yards, 12.6 avg., 2 TDs... 1st
 KICKOFF RETURNS—DuBose, 32 for 608 yards, 19.0 avg... 11th
 SACKS—Haley, 11.5 sacks... 7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	Los Angeles Rams at Tokyo, Japan
	12	At Los Angeles Raiders (N)
	19	DENVER (N)
	23	SAN DIEGO (N)

September	1	At Seattle (N)
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1989 SCHEDULE

September	10	at Indianapolis
	17	at Tampa Bay
	24	at Philadelphia
October	1	LOS ANGELES RAMS
	8	NEW ORLEANS
	15	at Dallas
	22	NEW ENGLAND
	29	at New York Jets
	6	at New Orleans (N)
	12	ATLANTA
	19	GREEN BAY
	27	NEW YORK GIANTS (N)
	3	at Atlanta
	11	at Los Angeles Rams (N)
	17	BUFFALO
	24	CHICAGO

1988 SCORES

10	—
17	—
24	—
1	16-38
8	30-17
15	—
22	—
29	—
6	34-33
12	17-34
19	—
27	20-17
3	13-3
11	24-21
17	—
24	9-10

49ERS

WORLD CHAMPIONS

• THE NFL'S WINNINGEST TEAM OF THE DECADE •



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be entering another season of controversy over who should start. In a way, Young has only himself to blame.

Running back Roger Craig gets credit for anything Montana and Rice failed to accomplish last season. Craig is the best running back in football, bar none, especially when his considerable receiving skill and unsurpassed dedication are added to the equation. He rushed for 1,502 yards and caught 76 passes for 534 yards and was the league's offensive MVP before Montana and Rice grabbed the postseason headlines. Without Craig, Montana and Rice would be just another pitch-and-catch routine. Without the blocking of fullback Tom Rathman, Craig wouldn't be so effective either. Third-round draft choice Keith Henderson will join Terrence Flagler, Harry Sydney, and newcomer Spencer Tillman in the scramble for backup time.

Taylor's Super Bowl catch and improvement late in the season notwithstanding, the 49ers want to make sure Rice is not overloaded with either coverage or responsibility. To that end, the gamble to add the injured former Cowboy Mike Sherrard could pay off in big dividends. At tight end, John Frank retired to pursue a career as a surgeon, and the 49ers will replace him with free-agent blocker Jamie Williams and second-round draft choice Wesley Walls.

The retirement of center Randy Cross requires guard Jesse Sapolu to move to the middle and second-year guard Jeff Bregel to assert himself opposite Guy McIntyre. Ex-Viking Terry Tausch adds depth inside, and the 49ers hope left tackle Steve Wallace can re-

turn healthy from the broken leg suffered in the Super Bowl, which big Bubba Paris finished. Right tackle Harris Barton is solid. Bruce Collie adds depth at tackle and guard.

The 49ers' emergence from an average club at mid-season to a 7-1 team down the stretch including playoffs mirrors the development of the young defensive front. After three games, the defense was ranked 18th. After 16, it was third. Michael Carter is again expected to dominate the middle as the premier nose tackle in football, according to many centers who have to block him. He is flanked by Larry Roberts and Kevin Fagan. Late in the season, Seifert used more four-man line, with Holt and Stubbs joining Roberts and Fagan. Turning them loose along with blitzing linebacker Charles Haley gave the 49ers their best rush since the prime of Fred Dean. Jeff Stover and Pete Kugler are capable and experienced reserves.

Haley paced the club with 11½ sacks and is surrounded by a good cast of linebackers led by inside man Mike Walter. DeLong could challenge Riki Ellison, injured last year, for an inside spot with second-year surprise Bill Romanowski outside and newcomer Chris Washington joining Sam Kennedy, Ron Hadley, and Jim Fahnhorst as insurance.

Cornerbacks Tim McTyer and Don Griffin tightened things up after contract holdouts that Seifert won't have to worry about this summer. They had outstanding years and McTyer is coming off a Super Bowl record for talking. Inside, Ronnie Lott still could be the best defensive back in football, with strong safety Jeff Fuller as solid as they come. Tony Nixon, Eric Wright, Chet Brooks, Tom Holmoe, and draft choice Johnny Jackson are reserves.

Like everything else about the 49ers, special teams appear to be in young, capable hands and feet. Place-kicker Mike Cofer led the NFL in scoring and punter Barry Helton improved as his rookie season progressed. Taylor led the league in punt returns, running two back for touchdowns. The 49ers could

stand improvement in kickoff returns, and their kickoff-coverage squad was embarrassed by Cincinnati's Stanford Jennings in the Super Bowl, but no team is perfect.

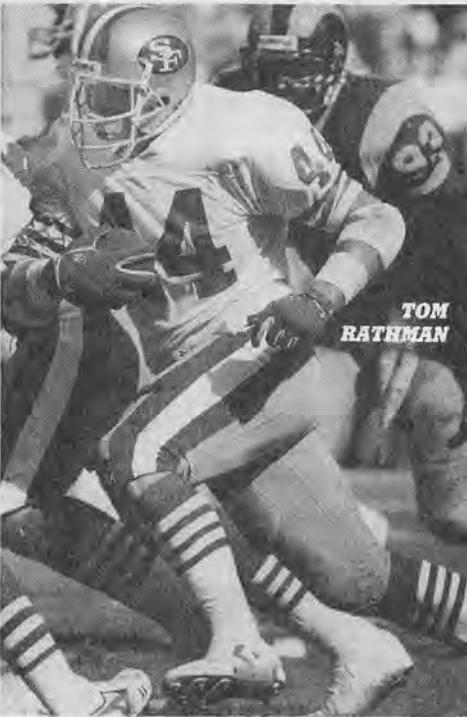
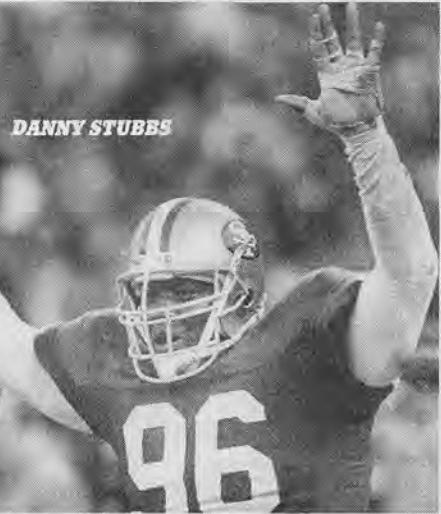
On paper, the 49ers have few weaknesses, a good way to try to become the first back-to-back Super Bowl champion since the 1978-79 Pittsburgh Steelers.

49ERS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
79 Barton, Harris	T	6-4	280	25	North Carolina
55 Bregel, Jeff	G	6-4	280	25	Southern Cal
31 Brooks, Chet	CB	5-11	191	23	Texas A&M
95 Carter, Michael	NT	6-2	285	29	SMU
57 Clarkson, Larry	T	6-7	303	24	Montana
76 Cochran, Mark	T	6-5	285	26	Baylorn
6 Coler, Mike	K	6-1	190	25	NC State
59 Collie, Bruce	G-T	6-6	275	27	Tex-Arlington
33 Craig, Roger	RB	6-0	224	29	Nebraska
50 Ellison, Riki	LB	6-2	225	29	Southern Cal
38 Evans, Vince	RB	5-11	225	28	North Carolina St.
75 Fagan, Kevin	DE	6-4	265	26	Miami (Fla.)
55 Fahnhorst, Jim	LB	6-4	230	31	Minnesota
32 Flagler, Terrence	RB	6-0	200	25	Clemson
49 Fuller, Jeff	S	6-2	216	27	Texas A&M
71 Glaser, Jeff	DE	6-4	243	24	UCLA
83 Greer, Terry	WR	6-1	192	32	Alabama State
29 Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	176	25	Middle Tenn. St.
54 Hadley, Ron	LB	6-2	240	26	Washington
94 Haley, Charles	LB-DE	6-5	230	25	James Madison
97 Harper, Robert	LB	6-2	242	24	Houston
9 Helton, Barry	P	6-3	205	24	Colorado
56 Hendrickson, Steve	LB	6-0	245	23	California
30 Hickerson, Eric	S	6-2	210	24	Indiana
46 Holmoe, Tom	S	6-2	195	29	Brigham Young
78 Holt, Pierce	DE	6-4	280	27	Angelo State
52 Hunter, John	LB	6-2	235	24	Bowling Green
84 Jones, Brent	TE	6-4	230	26	Santa Clara
18 Jones, Rod	TE	6-4	245	25	Washington
57 Kennedy, Sam	LB	6-3	235	25	San Jose St.
67 Kugler, Pete	DE	6-4	255	30	Penn State
42 Lott, Ronnie	S	6-0	200	30	Southern Cal
14 Manu, Tika	DE	6-4	267	25	Utah
62 McIntyre, Guy	G	6-3	265	28	Georgia
22 McTyer, Tim	CB	6-0	174	26	Tex-Arlington
16 Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	195	33	Notre Dame
27 Murray, Walter	WR	6-4	200	27	Hawaii
20 Nixon, Tony	CB	5-11	186	27	San Diego St.
64 O'Connor, Paul	G	6-3	258	27	Miami
77 Paris, "Bubba"	T	6-6	306	29	Michigan
15 Payne, John	QB	6-3	195	24	Stanford
26 Pollard, Darryl	CB	5-11	187	24	Weber State
44 Rathman, Tom	FB	6-1	232	27	Nebraska
80 Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	27	Miss. Valley St.
91 Roberts, Larry	DE	6-3	275	26	Alabama
53 Romanowski, Bill	LB	6-4	231	23	Boston College
7 Santos, Todd	QB	6-2	210	25	San Diego St.
61 Sapolu, Jesse	C	6-4	260	28	Hawaii
88 Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	187	26	UCLA
72 Slover, Jeff	DE	6-5	275	31	Oregon
96 Stubbs, Daniel	DE	6-4	260	24	Miami
10 Sweeney, Kevin	QB	6-0	193	26	Fresno St.
24 Sydney, Harry	FB	6-0	217	30	Kansas
56 Tausch, Terry	G	6-5	276	30	Texas
18 Taylor, Gene	WR	6-3	191	27	Fresno St.
82 Taylor, John	WR	6-1	185	27	Delaware St.
23 Tillman, Spencer	RB	5-11	206	25	Oklahoma
50 Thomas, Chuck	C	6-3	280	29	Oklahoma
58 Turner, Keena	LB	6-2	222	31	Purdue
93 Urien, Terry	NT	6-5	279	27	Colorado St.
74 Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	276	25	Auburn
99 Walter, Michael	LB	6-3	238	29	Oregon
51 Washington, Chris	LB	6-4	240	27	Iowa State
31 Williams, Jamie	TE	6-4	245	29	Nebraska
28 Williams, Kevin	CB	5-10	174	28	Iowa State
35 Wilson, Mike	WR	6-3	215	31	Washington St.
21 Wright, Eric	CB	6-1	185	30	Missouri
8 Young, Steve	QB	6-2	200	28	Brigham Young

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	DeLong, Keith	LB	6-2	235	Tennessee
2	Walls, Wesley	TE	6-5	245	Mississippi
3	Henderson, Keith	RB	6-1	220	Georgia
4	Barber, Mike	WR	5-10	170	Marshall
5	Jackson, Johnny	CB	6-1	200	Houston
6	Hendrickson, Steve	LB	6-0	245	California
9	Harmon, Rudy	LB	6-1	230	LSU
10	Sinclair, Andy	C	6-3	285	Stanford
11	Bell, Jim	RB	6-0	202	Boston College
11	McGee, Norm	WR	6-0	172	No. Dakota
12	Goss, Antonio	LB	6-4	228	North Carolina



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

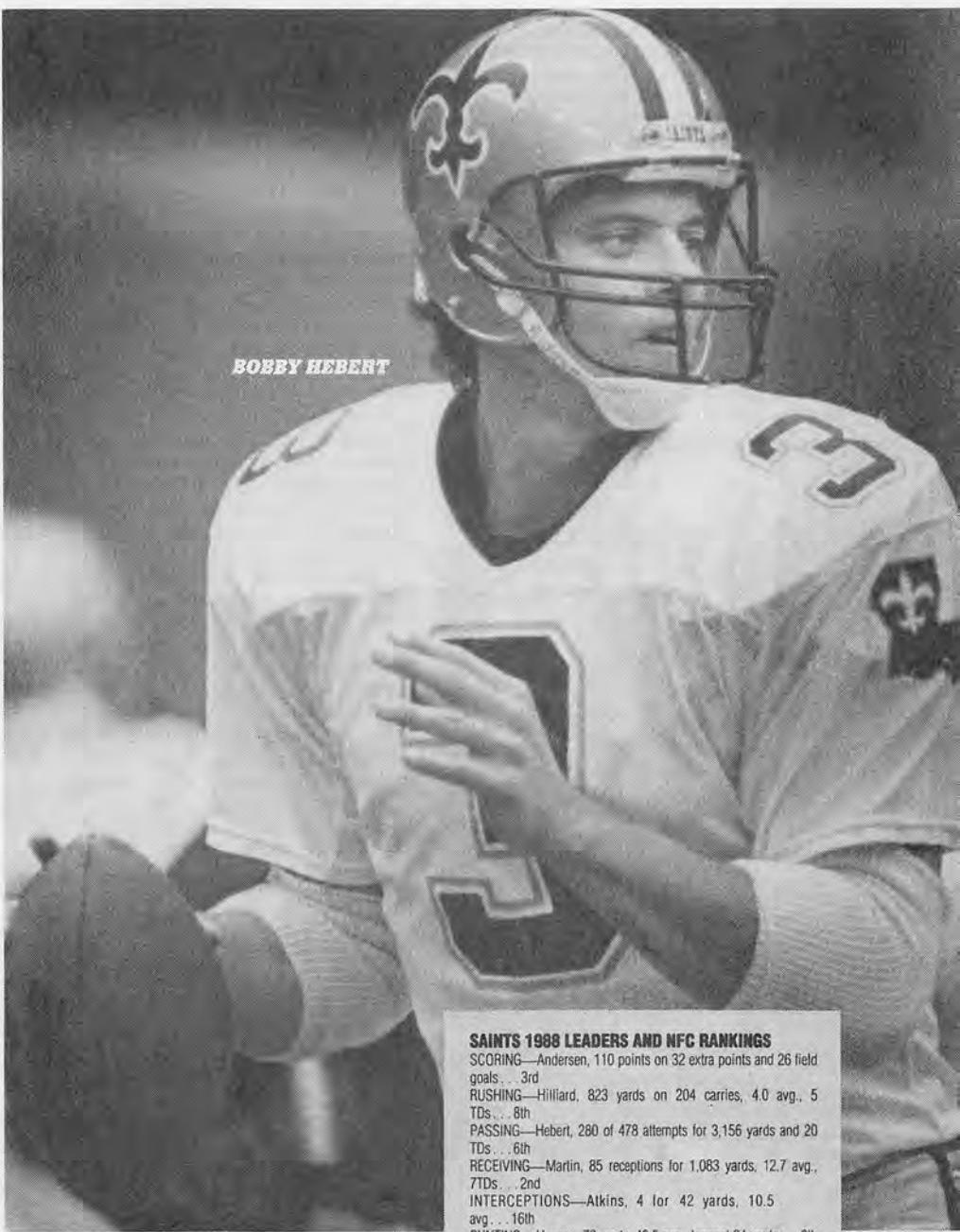
Time was a 10-6 record by the Saints would be cause to party in New Orleans. So what else is new? After completing only their second winning season in history, the Saints were disappointed. The city partied anyway, but not with the fervor that a 9-3 start suggested.

Suddenly, the Saints are talking about having to bounce back. They are worried about regaining lost respect. They fear that back-to-back winning records under coach Jim Mora may be nothing more than a cruel trick. They scratch their heads and think winning isn't that much different from losing. They watch Morten Andersen miss 10 field goals and they know something is alarmingly wrong with the order of the universe.

The Saints are like a lot of teams that are so close yet so far. One of five winning clubs last season that did not make the playoffs, the Saints had as good or better a record as six teams which did, including the Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers. But when they had to win, they lost. When they had to make a catch, a sack, a kick, a tackle, a run, or block to win, they didn't. After a 7-1 start, they were 3-5 down the stretch. They were a spit away from beating the Washington Redskins. Dexter Manley spat in the face of Saints' tackle Jim Dombrowski, who retaliated in front of an official. The penalty that resulted took Andersen out of field-goal range.

The question is whether the Saints are innocent victims of little things or still prisoners of a bigger problem: not enough weapons. For the second time in three drafts, they have tried to address the problem of the pass rush. After missing so badly on Shawn Knight that they had to unload him in his second season, they took a chance on Wayne Martin of Arkansas. Then they flooded their defensive backfield with prospects in hopes that somebody will rise to the top. To reach the next level, the Saints have to get production out of new talent. Although general manager Jim Finks prefers to draft big people, seven of his 12 choices this time were either defensive backs or wide receivers in an effort to find a skill player who can win a game with one big catch or interception.

Quarterback is a position that appears solid at last. Bobby Hebert is coming off his best year with 20 touchdown passes and 15 inter-



BOBBY HEBERT

ceptions, plus the unusual distinction of lasting the entire season healthy. Hebert and receiver Eric Martin formed one of the league's most impressive batteries. Long passes were not a part of the arsenal, but that is attributed more to Mora's style than to Hebert's arm. The longest completion of the season was 40 yards. Hebert was sacked nine times in the final four games, compared with 15 times in the previous 12, another indication that he can't be expected to do it all. Before the book is closed on Hebert, the Saints have to add some characters to fill out the plot. Dave Wilson and John Fourcade back up Hebert.

Martin was outstanding in catching 85 passes for 1,083 yards and seven touchdowns, a Pro Bowl season. He was complemented by Lonzell Hill, who caught 66 passes for 703 yards and seven touchdowns. But the Saints' need for more speed at the wideouts wasn't met by rookie Brett Perriman. He claimed the Saints weren't using him enough.

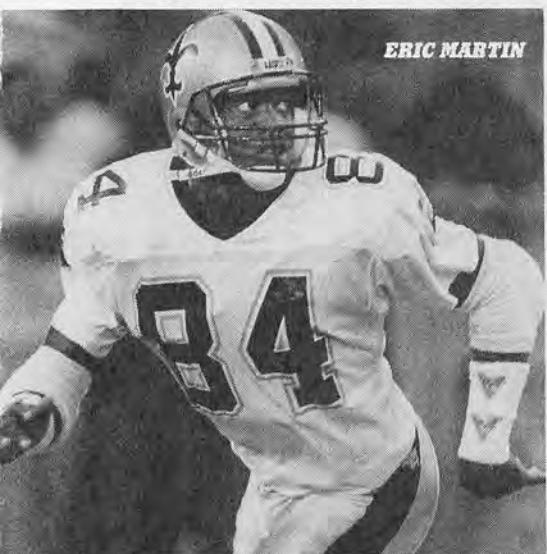
SAINTS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Andersen, 110 points on 32 extra points and 26 field goals...3rd
RUSHING—Hilliard, 823 yards on 204 carries, 4.0 avg., 5 TDs...8th
PASSING—Hebert, 280 of 478 attempts for 3,156 yards and 20 TDs...6th
RECEIVING—Martin, 85 receptions for 1,083 yards, 12.7 avg., 7 TDs...2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Atkins, 4 for 42 yards, 10.5 avg...16th
PUNTING—Hansen, 72 punts, 40.5 avg., longest 64 yards...6th
PUNT RETURNS—Gray, 25 for 305 yards, 12.2 avg., 1 TD...2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Atkins, 20 for 424 yards, 21.2 avg...6th
SACKS—Jackson, 7.0 sacks...T14th
Swilling, 7.0 sacks...T14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	INDIANAPOLIS (N)
	19	AT BUFFALO (N)
	28	CINCINNATI (N)
September	1	WASHINGTON (N)

1989 SCHEDULE		1988 SCORES
September	10	DALLAS.....20-17
	17	at Green Bay.....—
	24	at Tampa Bay.....13-9
October	1	WASHINGTON.....24-27
	8	at San Francisco.....17-30
	15	NEW YORK JETS.....—
	22	at Los Angeles Rams.....14-10
	29	ATLANTA.....10-9
November	6	SAN FRANCISCO (N).....33-34
	12	at New England.....—
	19	at Atlanta.....29-21
	26	LOS ANGELES RAMS (N).....10-12
December	3	DETROIT.....22-14
	10	at Buffalo.....—
	18	PHILADELPHIA (N).....—
	24	INDIANAPOLIS.....—



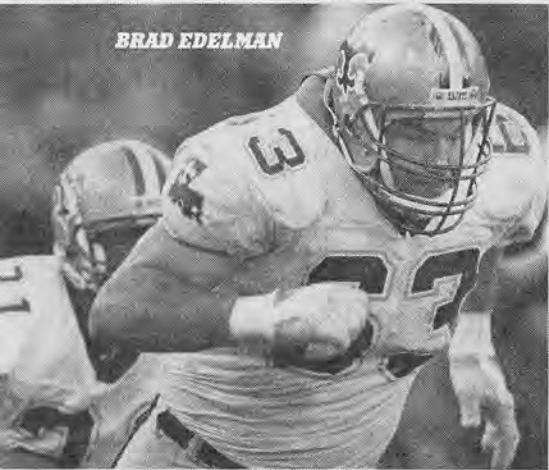
ERIC MARTIN

At tight end, the return from injury by Hoby Brenner should bolster the running game. He and John Tice are more than capable players and second-year man Greg Scales could develop into the starter if he can catch onto the offensive scheme better.

Production from the running backs fell off in number of rushes and yardage. Dalton Hilliard surpassed Rueben Mayes but neither established himself as the answer. Mayes was bothered by a contract dispute; Hilliard is a tough little back without enough speed to run away from linebackers. In his rookie season, fullback Craig "Ironhead" Heyward broke a 73-yard touchdown run while watching the Superdome scoreboard screen to see if anyone was gaining on him. Then he seemed to take the rest of the year off. A twisted knee



DALTON HILLIARD



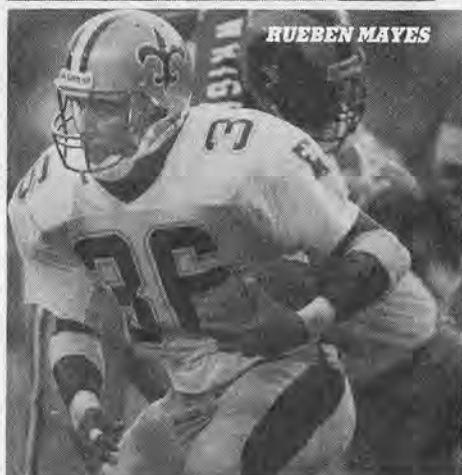
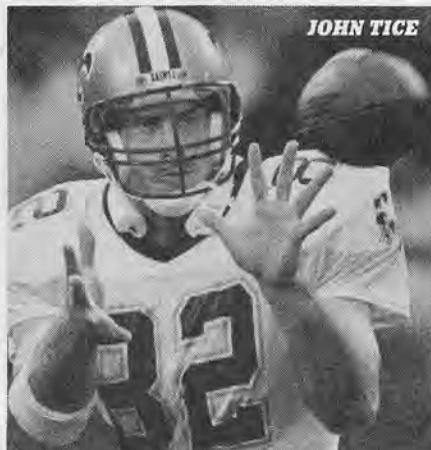
limited him to two carries in the last seven weeks. Carrying close to 260 pounds apparently prevented his knee from healing quickly. Buford Jordan is a valuable backup whose work habits could wear off on Heyward.

As is often the case, the offensive line got blamed for much of the Saints' problems in running the ball. A knee injury to veteran right tackle Stan Brock hampered the effectiveness of this unit. Brock was replaced by the now departed Bill Contz, who was also injured and replaced by Daren Gilbert. Free-agent pickup

Jeff Walker is another possibility here, but Mora is keeping his fingers crossed that Brock will be good for a 10th season. Right guard Steve Trapilo also missed the first half of the year. Center Steve Korte played the whole season and is more than adequately backed up by Joel Hilgenberg, also a capable guard. Guard Brad Edelman held onto his job and helped Dombrowski make the left side the safer place for Saints to roam. Dombrowski justified his selection as the Saints' No. 1 pick in 1986 and could be headed for Pro Bowl consideration.

The defensive line is the Saints' No. 1 concern. After drafting Knight in 1987, they missed on No. 3 pick Tony Stephens last year. Both were embarrassments. Martin must come through immediately to salvage a unit that was led by 3½ sacks apiece from Jim Wilks and James Geathers. Wilks and Bruce Clark are past 30 and Frank Warren will be 30. Tony Elliott was released and Ted Gregory, obtained for Knight, doesn't appear to be the answer. Martin was the only lineman drafted, so the Saints will look for help from other places before this problem is resolved.

Meanwhile, they will continue to rely on a group of linebackers that might be the best in football. Outside men Pat Swilling and Rickey Jackson had seven sacks apiece and inside men Sam Mills and Vaughan Johnson are hard to run past. All four deserve Pro Bowl consideration, although Mills was the only one to make it last season. A career-threatening injury to Alvin Toles left them with only two backups, Joe Kohlbrand and Brian Forde, so two more rookies were added in the draft.



Selecting cornerback Robert Massey in the second round, cornerback Kim Phillips in the third, and safety Michael Mayes in the fourth left no doubt about Mora's intention to revamp a secondary that struggled last season with Dave Waymer and the departed Van Jakes at the corners and Brett Maxie and Antonio Gibson at the safeties. Cornerback Reggie Sutton and safeties Toi Cook and Gene Atkins will join the scramble.

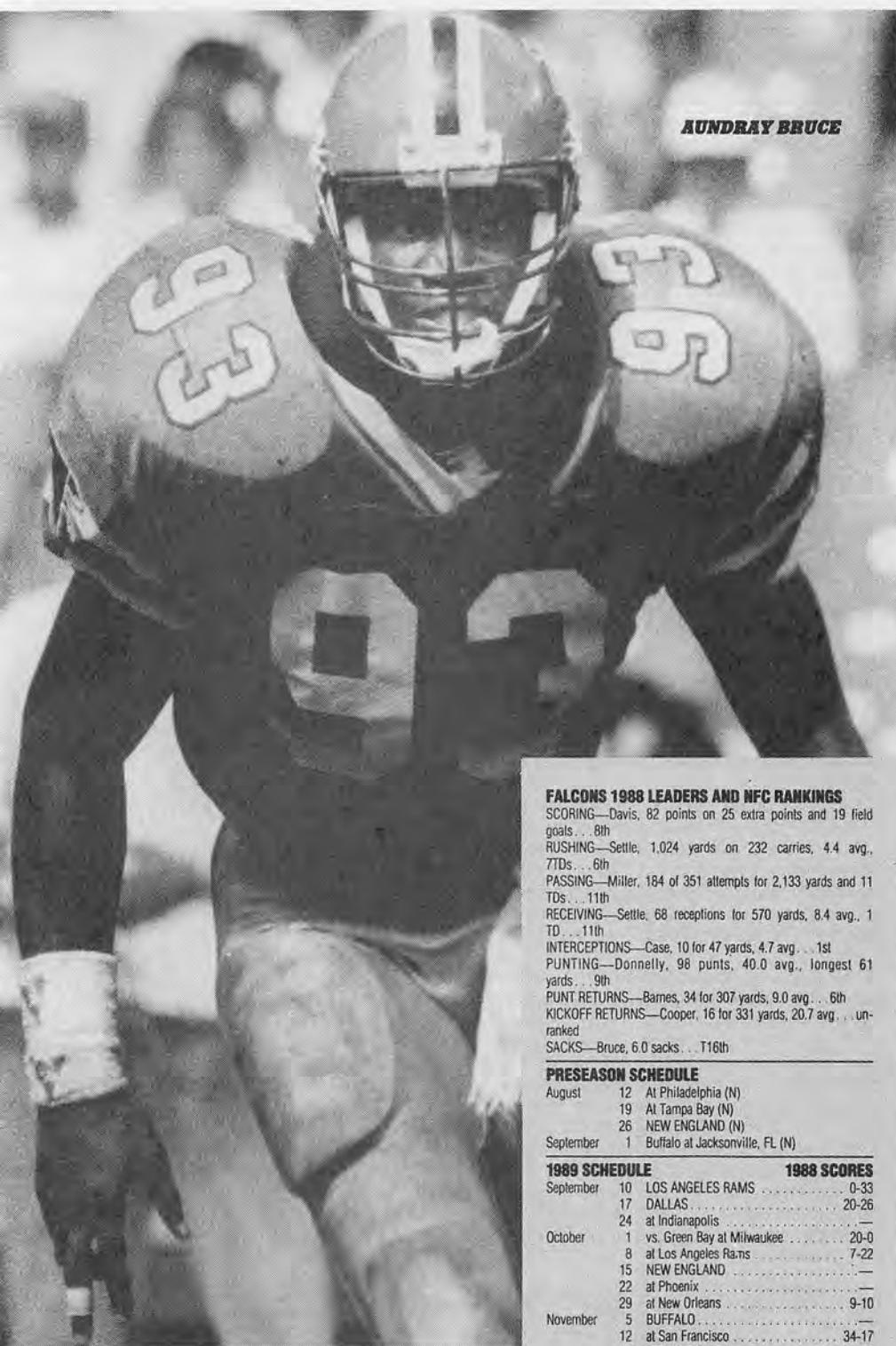
Andersen remains king of the league's special teamers even though he missed the first kick of his career from under 30 yards, a 29-yarder against the New York Giants that would have meant the playoffs. He had missed only 32 kicks in six previous seasons before his 10 misses last year. Kick-returner Mel Gray was lost in the unprotected pool. Brian Hansen is among the NFC's best punters.

SAINTS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
40 Adams, Michael	CB	5-10	195	25	Arkansas St.
7 Anderson, Morton	K	6-2	221	29	Michigan St.
28 Atkins, Gene	DB	6-1	200	25	Florida A&M
85 Brenner, Hoby	TE	6-4	240	30	Southern Cal
76 Board, Dwayne	DE	6-5	248	33	N. Carolina A&T
67 Brock, Stan	T	6-6	292	31	Colorado
59 Campen, James	OL	6-3	260	25	Tulane
45 Carr, Lydell	FB	6-0	221	24	Oklahoma
75 Clark, Bruce	DE	6-3	275	31	Penn State
89 Clark, Robert	WR	5-11	175	24	N.C. Central
70 Contz, Bill	T	6-5	280	28	Penn State
41 Cook, Toi	FS	5-11	188	25	Stanford
79 Derby, Glenn	T	6-6	295	25	Wisconsin
72 Dombrowski, Jim	T	6-5	298	26	Virginia
95 Dumbaugh, Jonathan	DE	6-4	259	26	Kentucky
63 Edelman, Brad	G	6-6	270	29	Missouri
52 Forde, Brian	LB	6-2	225	26	Washington St.
11 Fourcade, John	QB	6-1	208	28	Mississippi
97 Geathers, James	DE	6-7	290	28	Wichita St.
27 Gibson, Antonio	SS	6-3	204	27	Cincinnati
77 Gilbert, Daren	T	6-5	280	26	Fullerton St.
74 Gregory, Ted	NT	6-1	265	24	Syracuse
10 Harsen, Brian	P	6-3	209	29	Sioux Falls
92 Haynes, James	LB	6-2	233	29	Mississippi Valley
3 Hebert, Bobby	QB	6-4	215	29	NW Louisiana
34 Heyward, Craig	FB	5-11	251	23	Pittsburgh
61 Hilgenberg, Joel	OL	6-2	252	27	Iowa
87 Hill, Lonzell	WR	6-0	189	24	Washington
21 Hilliard, Dalton	RB	5-8	204	25	LSU
57 Jackson, Rickey	LB	6-2	243	31	Pittsburgh
22 Jakes, Van	CB	6-0	190	28	Kent State
53 Johnson, Vaughan	LB	6-3	235	27	N.C. State
23 Jordan, Buford	FB	6-0	223	27	McNeese State
55 Kohlbrand, Joe	LB	6-4	242	26	Miami
60 Korte, Steve	C	6-2	260	29	Arkansas
24 Mack, Milton	CB	5-11	182	26	Alcorn St.
84 Martin, Eric	WR	6-1	207	28	LSU
39 Maxie, Brett	FS	6-2	194	27	Texas Southern
36 Mayes, Rueben	RB	5-11	200	26	Washington St.
51 Mills, Sam	LB	5-9	225	30	Montclair St.
88 Pattison, Mark	WR	6-2	198	28	Washington
80 Perriman, Brett	WR	5-9	175	24	Miami
83 Scales, Greg	TE	6-4	253	23	Wake Forest
56 Swilling, Pat	LB	6-3	242	25	Georgia Tech
82 Tice, John	TE	6-5	249	29	Maryland
54 Toles, Alvin	LB	6-1	227	26	Tennessee
65 Trapilo, Steve	G	6-5	295	25	Boston College
68 Walker, Jeff	T	6-4	289	26	Memphis St.
73 Warren, Frank	DE	6-4	290	30	Auburn
44 Waymer, Dave	CB	6-1	188	31	Notre Dame
94 Wilks, Jim	DE	6-5	266	31	San Diego St.
18 Wilson, Dave	QB	6-3	206	30	Illinois

DRAFTEES

no. name	pos	ht	wt	college
1 Martin, Wayne	DE	6-5	275	Arkansas
2 Massey, Robert	CB	5-10	180	N.C. Central
3 Phillips, Kim	CB	5-9	185	N. Texas St.
4 Mayes, Michael	S	5-10	180	LSU
5 Haverink, Kevin	OT	6-6	275	W. Michigan
6 Turner, Floyd	WR	5-11	191	NE Louisiana
7 Griggs, David	LB	6-3	242	Virginia
8 Hadley, Fred	WR	6-1	175	Mississippi St.
9 Leggett, Jerry	LB	6-4	266	Fullerton St.
10 Henderson, Joe	RB	6-0	203	Iowa State
11 Nicholson, Calvin	DB	5-9	183	Oregon State
12 Cadore, Mike	WR	5-8	169	Eastern Ky.



AUNDRAY BRUCE

FALCONS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Davis, 82 points on 25 extra points and 19 field goals...8th
RUSHING—Settle, 1,024 yards on 232 carries, 4.4 avg., 7 TDs...6th
PASSING—Miller, 184 of 351 attempts for 2,133 yards and 11 TDs...11th
RECEIVING—Settle, 68 receptions for 570 yards, 8.4 avg., 1 TD...11th
INTERCEPTIONS—Case, 10 for 47 yards, 4.7 avg., 1st
PUNTING—Donnelly, 98 punts, 40.0 avg., longest 61 yards...9th
PUNT RETURNS—Barnes, 34 for 307 yards, 9.0 avg...6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Cooper, 16 for 331 yards, 20.7 avg., unranked
SACKS—Bruce, 6.0 sacks...T16th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	At Philadelphia (N)
	19	At Tampa Bay (N)
	26	NEW ENGLAND (N)
September	1	Buffalo at Jacksonville, FL (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

September	10	LOS ANGELES RAMS	0-33
	17	DALLAS	20-26
October	24	at Indianapolis	—
	1	vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	20-0
	8	at Los Angeles Rams	7-22
	15	NEW ENGLAND	—
	22	at Phoenix	—
	29	at New Orleans	9-10
November	5	BUFFALO	—
	12	at San Francisco	34-17
	19	NEW ORLEANS	21-29
	26	at New York Jets	—
December	3	SAN FRANCISCO	3-13
	10	at Minnesota	—
	17	WASHINGTON	—
	24	DETROIT	17-31

1988 SCORES

Last year, the Falcons were the happiest 5-11 team in the history of football. "Right now, we're in a stage of having gone from a horrible last place to where we feel competitive with every team we play," Campbell said. The Falcons were still fourth out of four in the NFC West, but as Campbell explained, "It was a poor bottom."

ATLANTA FALCONS

This is the way the National Football League is supposed to work: Finish at the bottom as many times as the Falcons have, and pretty soon your roster is full of No. 1 draft choices. If they are good No. 1 draft choices, pretty soon you finish on top.

The Falcons had 11 No. 1 draft choices on their roster after the April grab bag and have two more up their sleeves for next year. As many as nine or 10 No. 1s figure to start for coach Marion Campbell, who is frantically trying to catch the 49ers, Rams, and Saints.

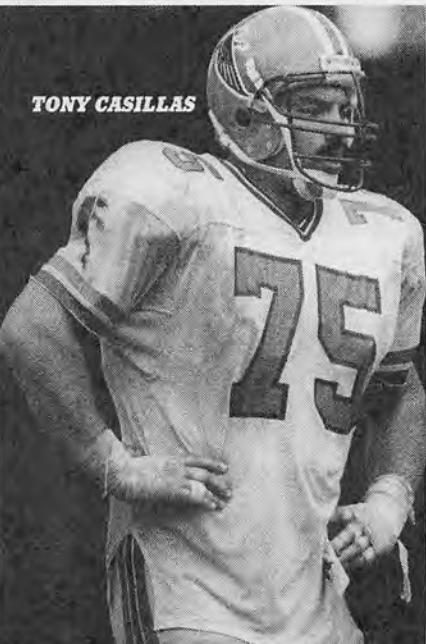
The Falcons improved from 28th in offense and defense to 25th in both. The improvement was more noticeable on the scoreboard, where the Falcons were living proof of how short it can be from top to bottom. They beat the NFC East champion Eagles and NFC West champion 49ers on the road. And in eight of their 11 losses, they were leading or within four points in the fourth quarter.

After a 1-7 record in the first half and a victory over the Eagles, the defense allowed only six touchdowns in the final seven games and an average of only 10 points per game. Defense is clearly the best way Campbell knows to pull his team up from the depths, and the statistics show he is on the right track. The Falcons tied for 11th in the league in points allowed, were seventh in take-aways, and fourth in interceptions.

Add Prime Time Neon Deion Sanders to five other No. 1 draft choices on defense, and maybe it won't be long until all of Atlanta is bedecked in gold chains. Sanders hit town weighing considerably more than his listed 182, which includes no jewelry. If he can play as well as he looks, and if teammates don't get jealous, and if the Falcons pay enough for him to give up his baseball glove, Sanders can be one of those "difference-makers" that enable a team to rise from competitive to favored.

Quarterback Chris Miller, the 1987 No. 1 draft choice, and linebacker Aundray Bruce, the 1988 No. 1 selection, both proved they are "difference-makers." With Miller starting and finishing, the Falcons had a 5-6 record. With Bruce leading rookie linebackers in sacks with six, the Falcons' pass rush increased from 17 sacks to 30.

Entering his third season, Miller has played in only 16 games: one full season. Last year, a sprained ankle, elbow injury, and concussion kept him out of four-plus games. But Miller wasn't the only Falcon struck down. This is a team that can start to worry about injuries instead of blaming its record merely on ineptitude. Despite losing linemen and receivers and runners all around him, Miller's interception percentage (3.4) was better than that of Boomer Esiason, Dan Marino, Jim Kelly, John



TONY CASILLAS

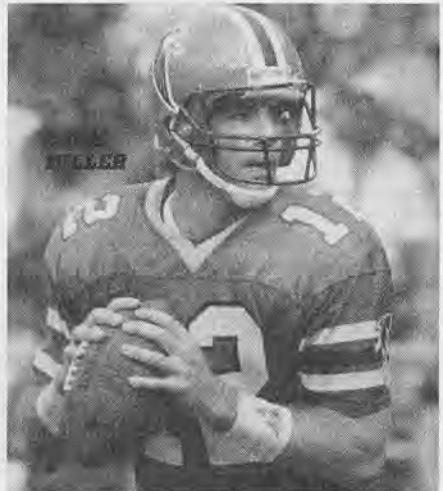
Elway, and Jim Everett. Miller's backup is Scott Campbell, also returning from injury. Hugh Millen is the third quarterback.

The Falcons were ecstatic in the draft when they were able to trade up from the second round to land Northern Arizona wide receiver Shawn Collins with the 27th pick. Although he was a tight end in college, Collins is projected as strictly a wideout for the Falcons, who can use help for oft-injured starters Stacey Bailey and Floyd Dixon. The speed of second-year receiver Michael Haynes is a bonus. His 49-yard catch to beat the Eagles helped turn the season around last year.

An injury to rookie tight end Alex Higdon ended a promising start of a career that is now questionable. Higdon's first two receptions were for touchdowns before he went down



BILL FRALIC



with a knee that required two surgeries. As insurance against his loss, the Falcons signed four tight ends from the unprotected list this spring, including San Francisco's Ron Heller. Then they spent a sixth-round draft pick on Georgia's Troy Sadowski.

Trading the team's all-time leading rusher, Gerald Riggs, was not something the Falcons were especially eager to do. But Riggs forced the issue and draft director Ken Herock was able to come up with Washington's No. 1 choice next year. The unexpected emergence of John Settle into a Pro Bowl performer made Riggs's parting easier to take. But the Falcons are a two-back team now with only one proven runner. Gene Lang is a possible partner for Settle, although third-round draft pick Keith

Jones of Illinois reminds scouts of Settle. James Primus and Keith Griffin also could get a shot at more playing time, but former high pick Kenny Flowers remains questionable with a serious knee problem.

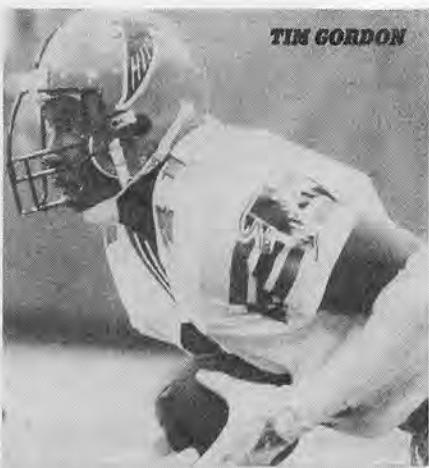
The team's oldest No. 1 choice, tackle Mike Kenn, happened to be the only starter who lasted all season, and his performance against the Giants' Lawrence Taylor indicated he is far from slowing down. Second-round pick Ralph Norwood could move to right tackle and enable last year's sixth-round surprise, Houston Hoover, to move to guard. Hoover was one of last year's 11 draft choices (out of 12) to stick, the kind of ratio every rebuilding team requires but rarely gets. Pro Bowl fixture Bill Fralic is set at right guard, with Wayne Radloff at center and John Scully and second-year man Stan Clayton fighting for spots at guard, where they finished as starters.

The defensive front of Mike Gann, Tony Casillas, and Rick Bryan is good. Campbell would prefer great. Instead, the pass rush comes from outside linebackers Bruce and Marcus Cotton, last year's No. 2 pick. Their 11 sacks between them tied an all-time rookie best. Cotton finished injured and was replaced by Tim Green, the 1986 No. 1, who could move inside beside Jessie Tuggle, with relative old-timers Joel Williams and John Rade fighting for playing time.

Sanders comes to a club that didn't exactly have a position wide open for him. Left cornerback Bobby Butler, yet another former No. 1, routinely covers the opposition's best receiver. Right cornerback Scott Case led the NFL in interceptions last year with 10, seven in the second half of the season. Sanders will get one of their jobs, with the possibility that either Butler or Case will move inside to safety, where Robert Moore and Tim Gordon finished the season. Evan Cooper and Norman Floyd will vie for backup spots inside and second-year man Charles Dimry played well as a rookie nickel back.

The Falcons added place-kicker Paul McFadden. Sanders might have been a first-round draft choice purely on his punt-return ability, as he will remind the Falcons in contract negotiations. Punter Rick Donnelly finished back in the pack but was praised for hitting 27 kicks inside the 20-yard line, up from six in 1987. That kind of improvement, which doesn't always show up on paper, is a reflection of the whole Falcon effort.

"If we improve this season as much as we did between 1987 and 1988, we could slip up on people and probably end up in the playoffs," Case said.



TIM GORDON

FALCONS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
82	Bailey, Stacey	WR	6-1	157	23	San Jose St.
71	Baldinger, Gary	NT	6-3	265	26	Wake Forest
23	Beckman, Brad	TE	6-3	240	25	Nebraska-Omaha
63	Brotzki, Bob	T	6-5	275	27	Syracuse
98	Brown, Greg	DE	6-5	265	32	Kansas St.
93	Bruce, Aundray	LB	6-5	248	23	Auburn
77	Bryan, Rick	DE	6-4	265	27	Oklahoma
23	Butler, Bobby	CB	5-11	175	30	Florida St.
10	Campbell, Scott	QB	6-0	195	27	Purdue
25	Case, Scott	CB	6-0	178	27	Oklahoma
75	Casillas, Tony	NT	6-3	280	26	Oklahoma
74	Clayton, Stan	OL	6-3	265	24	Penn State
20	Cooper, Evan	DB	5-11	194	27	Michigan
51	Cotton, Marcus	LB	6-3	230	23	Southern Cal
22	Dimry, Charles	DB	6-0	175	23	UNLV
86	Dixon, Floyd	WR	5-9	170	25	Stephen F. Austin
3	Donnelly, Rick	P	6-0	190	27	Wyoming
64	Dukes, Jamie	G	6-1	278	25	Florida St.
48	Flowers, Kenny	RB	6-0	210	25	Clemson
29	Floyd, Norman	S	6-0	202	23	S.C. Carolina
79	Fralic, Bill	G	6-5	280	27	Pittsburgh
65	Frank, Gary	OL	6-2	280	25	Mississippi St.
76	Garin, Mike	DE	6-5	275	26	Notre Dame
41	Gordon, Tim	S	6-0	188	24	Tulsa
99	Green, Tim	LB	6-2	245	26	Syracuse
26	Giffin, Keith	RB	5-8	185	28	Miami
81	Haynes, Michael	WR	6-0	180	24	Northern AZ
80	Heller, Ron	TE	6-3	235	26	Oregon St.
89	Hester, Jessie	WR	5-11	170	26	Florida St.
88	Higdon, Alex	TE	6-5	247	23	Ohio State
69	Hoover, Houston	T	6-2	285	24	Jackson St.
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-7	277	33	Michigan
33	Lang, Gene	RB	5-10	206	27	LSU
87	Lee, Danzell	TE	6-2	237	26	Lamar
94	Martin, Charles	NT	6-4	280	30	Livingston St.
6	McFadden, Paul	K	5-11	166	28	Youngstown St.
7	Millett, Hugh	QB	6-5	216	26	Washington
12	Miller, Chris	QB	6-2	200	24	Oregon
84	Milling, James	WR	5-9	156	24	Maryland
92	Modestit, Jeff	TE	6-5	246	25	Delaware
34	Moore, Robert	S	5-11	190	25	NW La.
67	Oswald, Paul	G	6-4	275	25	Kansas
49	Primus, James	RB	5-11	195	25	UCLA
59	Rade, John	LB	6-1	240	29	Boise State
55	Radloff, Wayne	C	6-5	277	28	Georgia
95	Reid, Michael	LB	6-2	226	25	Wisconsin
66	Robison, Tommy	G	6-4	290	28	Texas A&M
61	Scully, John	G	6-6	270	31	Notre Dame
44	Settle, John	RB	5-9	207	24	Appalachian
37	Shelley, Elbert	S	5-11	180	25	Arkansas St.
24	Taylor, Kitek	WR	5-10	190	25	Washington St.
35	Thomas, George	WR	5-9	169	25	UNLV
58	Tuttle, Jessie	LB	5-11	225	24	Valdosta State
47	Whitaker, Danta	TE	6-4	243	25	Miss. Valley St.
54	Williams, Joel	LB	6-1	227	33	Wis-LaCrosse

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Sanders, Deion	CB	5-11	185	Florida State
1	Collins, Shawn	WR	6-3	215	No. Arizona
2	Woodard, Ralph	T	6-6	275	LSU
3	Jones, Keith	RB	6-1	210	Illinois
6	Sadowski, Troy	TE	6-5	240	Georgia
7	Johnson, Undra	RB	5-9	200	West Virginia
8	Singer, Paul	QB	6-2	187	Western Illinois
9	Dunn, Chris	LB	6-3	230	Cal Poly SLO
11	Patelar, Greg	WR	5-11	211	Slippery Rock
12	Bowick, Tony	NT	6-2	265	UT-Chattanooga

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Coach Jerry Burns was still shaking his head long after watching his Vikings chase 49er quarterback Steve Young 49 yards into the end zone. "That one play affected the whole season," Burns said. The Vikings had the 49ers down and almost out on October 30. One more loss would have put the 49ers at 9-7, out of the playoffs. One more victory would have put the Vikings into the playoff driver's seat, at home instead of on the road, where the 49ers pummeled them.

Little things meant a lot to the Vikings last year when they were picked by some observers to win it all. They beat the Bears twice, then lost to the Packers twice. The second loss to Green Bay came after they had the Bears on the run. They squandered a chance to gain the home-field advantage in the playoffs. Afterwards, they rationalized, saying they play better with their backs to the wall. After they were blown out of the playoffs by the 49ers, their happy-go-lucky behavior on the plane ride home prompted general manager Mike Lynn to comment: "Certain members of this team need to grow up."

On a team that had nine Pro Bowl players, something was missing. The Vikings traded their first-round draft pick to Pittsburgh to get unhappy linebacker Mike Merriweather, and Burns said he might be the man who can put the team into the Super Bowl. But what the Vikings seem to need is something intangible. A sense of urgency would help. Teams don't come around often boasting of nine Pro Bowl players at one time. The Vikings are in danger of peaking without reaching the pinnacle of their profession, the Super Bowl.

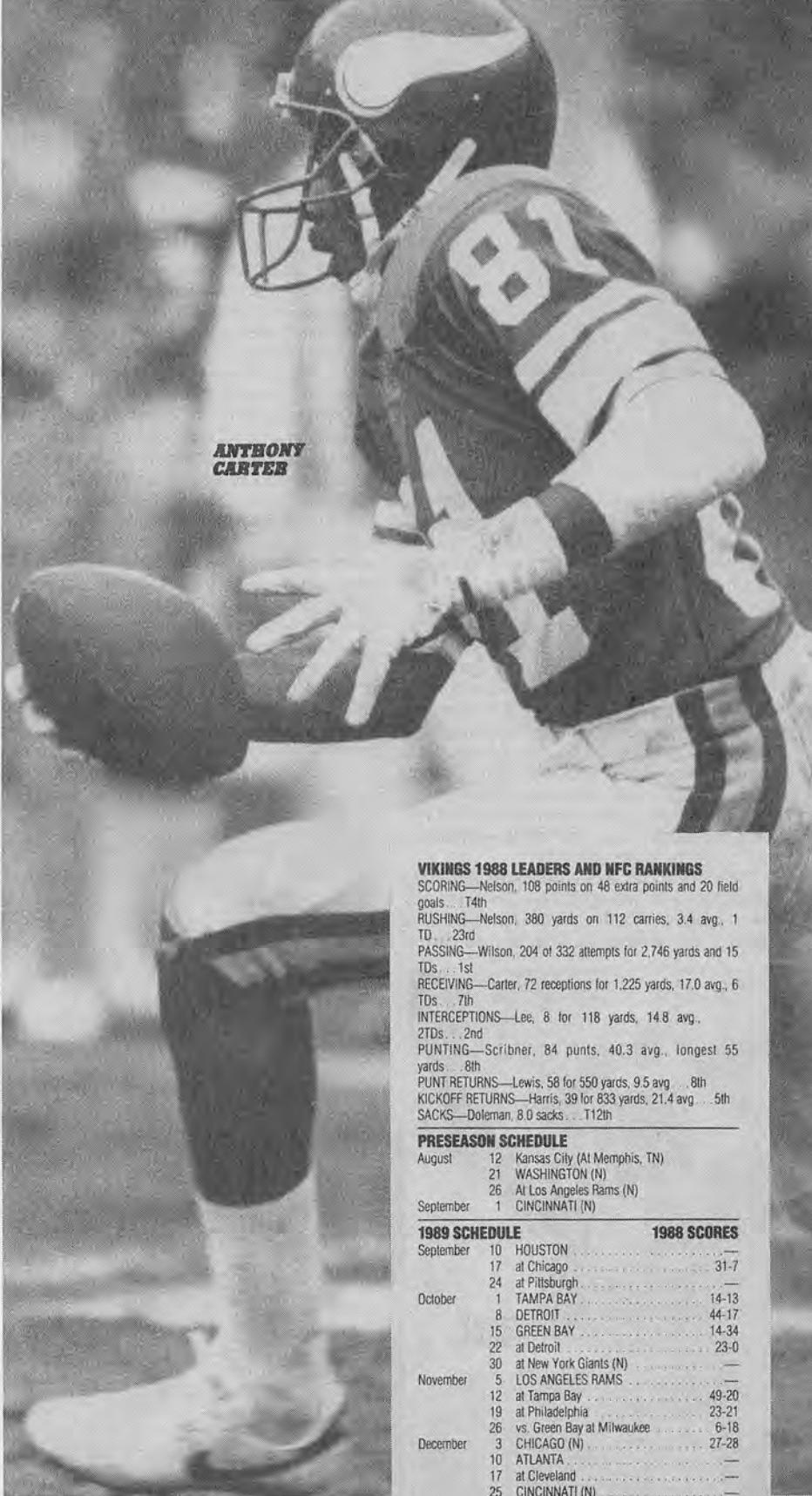
More players is not always the answer. The Vikings invited more than 70 unprotected free agents to a tryout camp in Florida and ended up signing only eight, the same number they lost. They can search far and wide and find no better overall talent than they have on their own team. Yes, another pass rusher might be nice, but this is the No. 1 defense in football.

"I'm sure, during the course of the year, that there was too much of an 'I' attitude, instead of a 'we.' A 'me' instead of an 'us.' We talked about that before and we tried to iron it out. But in today's football, with the publicity that is given to contracts and negotiations and renegotiations and everything, it's a daily topic," Burns said.

This is the only team in football with two Pro Bowl quarterbacks on it. Wade Wilson played last season and Tommy Kramer played two years before that. With Wilson entrenched as the starter and Kramer still capable at 34, the Vikings also have a third-year prospect in Rich Gannon they would like to see get playing time. Wilson's time has come, however. The leading passer in the NFC, Wilson finished behind only Cincinnati's Boomer Esiason and Seattle's Dave Krieg in quarterback rating. Both had better running games to rely on. Wilson led the conference in completion percentage, 61.4, and yards per passing attempt, 8.27. But Wilson had two problems last season: his volatile relationship with offensive coordinator Bob Schnecker and his \$250,000 salary, making him football's most underpaid starter. Both situations could use some smoothing over.

The Vikings are loaded with good receivers, led by Anthony Carter, who got the ball more

NFCcentral



ANTHONY CARTER

VIKINGS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING	Nelson, 108 points on 48 extra points and 20 field goals	... 14th
RUSHING	Nelson, 380 yards on 112 carries, 3.4 avg., 1 TD	... 23rd
PASSING	Wilson, 204 of 332 attempts for 2,746 yards and 15 TDs	... 1st
RECEIVING	Carter, 72 receptions for 1,225 yards, 17.0 avg., 6 TDs	... 7th
INTERCEPTIONS	Lee, 8 for 118 yards, 14.8 avg., 2 TDs	... 2nd
PUNTING	Scribner, 84 punts, 40.3 avg., longest 55 yards	... 8th
PUNT RETURNS	Lewis, 58 for 550 yards, 9.5 avg.	... 8th
KICKOFF RETURNS	Harris, 39 for 833 yards, 21.4 avg.	... 5th
SACKS	Doleman, 8.0 sacks	... 12th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	Kansas City (At Memphis, TN)
	21	WASHINGTON (N)
	26	At Los Angeles Rams (N)
September	1	CINCINNATI (N)

1989 SCHEDULE		1988 SCORES
September	10	HOUSTON
	17	at Chicago
	24	at Pittsburgh
October	1	TAMPA BAY
	8	DETROIT
	15	GREEN BAY
	22	at Detroit
	30	at New York Giants (N)
November	5	LOS ANGELES RAMS
	12	at Tampa Bay
	19	at Philadelphia
	26	vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee
December	3	CHICAGO (N)
	10	ATLANTA
	17	at Cleveland
	25	CINCINNATI (N)



CHRIS DOLEMAN

often last season with predictably better results. Although the 49ers were able to scare the Vikings into laying off Carter, his 72 catches for the season put him among the top 10 for the first time. Hassan Jones and tight end Steve Jordan took advantage of the double coverage Carter drew to catch 97 passes between them and five touchdowns apiece. Both can get open and make the tough catch. There is no better blocking and receiving tight end in the league than Jordan. With little Leo Lewis and possession receiver Jim Gustafson backing up at the wideouts, the Vikings hope supplemental draft addition Ryan Bethea blossoms. They also picked up Anthony Allen from Washington's unprotected list. Carl Hilton is the backup tight end along with fourth-round draft pick Darryl Ingram.

The running game is a concern after it finished 20th and averaged only 3.6 yards per carry. Injuries to Darrin Nelson hampered his effectiveness all season. Injuries also limited

D.J. Dozier, who has yet to show he was worth a No. 1 draft pick. Alfred Anderson, Allen Rice, and Rick Fenney are solid but not feature backs.

Todd Kalis will join former Arizona State teammate Randall McDaniel as a starting guard after the departure of Terry Tausch. McDaniel had an impressive rookie season between Pro Bowl left tackle Gary Zimmerman and close-to-Pro Bowl center Kirk Lowdermilk. Tim Irwin is back for his ninth year and is a solid right tackle. John Hunter was drafted in the third round and Jeff Mickel in the sixth as backup tackles in a thin area. David Huffman has played every position on the line and Chris Foote and Randy Rasmussen also are veteran backups.

Chris Doleman, Keith Millard, and Henry Thomas form three-fourths of a defensive line that is looking for a left end. Doug Martin is coming off knee surgery with hopes of reclaiming the spot. Second-year man Al Noga could emerge there. Former knee case Curtis Greer was picked up from the Cardinals and the Vikings drafted Alex Stewart late for insurance. Thomas and Millard are as good as they come at the tackle positions. Doleman didn't have as good a year last time as he enjoyed in 1987. Tim "Icebox" Newton, Brian Habib, and rookie Benji Roland vie for backup spots.

Merriweather is the new left linebacker, ahead of David Howard. Merriweather is expected to provide more big-play capability, including blitzing, but some observers feel he hasn't played really well since 1984. Scott Studwell remains amazingly good in the middle at age 34 and Jesse Solomon is one player the Vikings thought deserved Pro Bowl accolades but didn't get them. The right linebacker led the team in tackles until sidelined late by a knee injury that cost the Vikings dearly in the playoffs, and he is still recovering.



WADE WILSON



KEITH MILLARD

Backup Ray Berry was impressive in Solomon's place and will get a chance for more playing time. The Vikings' need for linebacker depth is so acute they drafted David Braxton with their second-round pick.

Carl Lee developed into a Pro Bowl cornerback on the left side, capable of consistent coverage. When Reggie Rutland beat out Isaac Holt on the other side, the Vikings' pass defense further jelled. Former Cincinnati backup Daryl Smith will provide depth. There is no better defensive player in football than strong safety Joey Browner, who will play beside free safety Brad Edwards this year with Darrell Fullington and newcomer Travis Curtis in reserve.

Bucky Scribner found new life as a punter and place-kicker Chuck Nelson is coming off a 20-for-25 season. Lewis is among the best punt returners. Kick returner Darryl Harris went to Green Bay, figuring if you can't beat them, join them.

VIKINGS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
46 Anderson, Alfred	RB	6-1	223	28	Baylor
53 Anno, Sam	LB	6-2	230	24	Southern Cal
58 Ashley, Walter Lee	LB	6-0	230	29	Penn State
60 Baker, Al	DE	6-6	280	33	Colorado St.
50 Berry, Ray	LB	6-2	225	26	Baylor
85 Belhea, Ryan	WR	6-3	206	22	South Carolina
47 Brown, Joey	S	6-2	210	29	Southern Cal
81 Carter, Anthony	WR	5-11	177	29	Michigan
56 Doleman, Chris	DE	6-5	262	28	Pittsburgh
42 Dozier, D.J.	RB	6-0	208	24	Penn State
27 Edwards, Brad	S	6-1	200	23	South Carolina
31 Fenney, Rick	RB	6-1	232	25	Washington
33 Floyd, Norman	S	5-11	203	23	South Carolina
62 Foote, Chris	C	6-4	255	33	USC
29 Fullington, Darrell	S	6-1	197	25	Miami
16 Gannon, Rich	QB	6-3	199	24	Delaware
80 Gustafson, Jim	WR	6-1	174	28	St. Thomas
91 Habib, Brian	DT	6-7	273	25	Washington
32 Harris, Darryl	RB	5-10	178	23	Arizona St.
24 Henderson, Wymon	DB	5-10	185	28	UNLV
82 Hilton, Carl	TE	6-3	230	25	Houston
30 Holt, Isaac	CB	6-2	202	27	Alcorn State
51 Howard, David	LB	6-2	231	28	Long Beach St.
72 Huffman, David	T	6-6	284	32	Notre Dame
76 Irwin, Tim	T	6-7	285	31	Tennessee
84 Jones, Hassan	WR	6-0	192	25	Florida St.
83 Jordan, Steve	TE	6-3	239	28	Brown
69 Kallis, Todd	G	6-5	284	24	Arizona St.
9 Kramer, Tommy	QB	6-2	202	34	Rice
39 Lee, Carl	DB	5-11	183	28	Marshall
87 Lewis, Leo	WR	5-8	172	33	Missouri
63 Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6-3	267	26	Ohio State
79 Martin, Doug	DE	6-3	258	32	Washington
64 McDaniel, Randall	G	6-3	271	25	Arizona St.
75 Merriweather, Mike	LB	6-2	219	29	Pacific
75 Millard, Keith	DT	6-5	262	27	Washington St.
1 Nelson, Chuck	K	5-11	172	29	Washington
20 Nelson, Darrin	RB	5-9	184	30	Stanford
96 Newton, Tim	DT	6-0	277	26	Florida
99 Noga, Al	DT	6-1	261	23	Hawaii
52 Rasmussen, Randy	OL	6-1	254	29	Minnesota
36 Rice, Allen	RB	5-10	204	27	Baylor
48 Rutland, Reggie	S	6-1	194	25	Georgia Tech
13 Scribner, Bucky	P	6-0	213	29	Kansas
54 Solomon, Jesse	LB	6-0	232	26	Florida St.
55 Studwell, Scott	LB	6-2	228	35	Illinois
66 Tausch, Terry	G	6-5	273	30	Texas
97 Thomas, Henry	NT	6-2	267	24	LSU
11 Wilson, Wade	QB	6-3	208	30	East Texas St.
65 Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	286	28	Oregon

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Braxton, David	LB	6-1	230	Wake Forest
3	Hunter, John	OT	6-7	290	Brigham Young
4	Ingram, Darrl	TE	6-3	230	California
6	Mickel, Jeff	OL	6-5	284	E. Washington
7	Roland, Benji	DT	6-4	272	Auburn
8	Stewart, Alex	DE	6-3	263	Fullerton St.
11	Baxter, Brad	RB	6-1	233	Alabama St.
12	Woodson, Shawn	LB	6-2	210	James Madison
12	Ross, Everett	WR	5-10	185	Ohio State

VIKING UPDATE

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

\$1.95

SEPTEMBER 5, 1989

WADE WILSON THE '89 CHALLENGE

CAN THE
VIKINGS CAPTURE
THE RING OR
WILL IT REMAIN
A DREAM?

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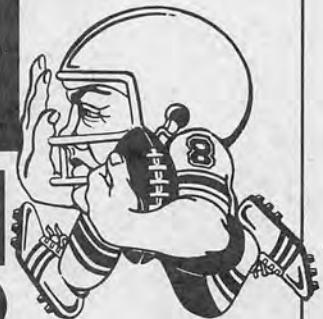
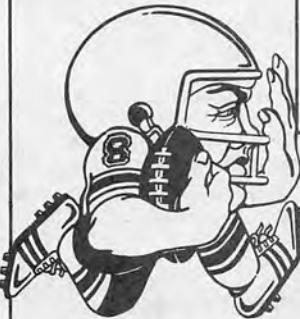
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- '89 DRAFT ANALYSIS
- '89 PREVIEW
- '89 PREDICTIONS
- TRAINING CAMP HIGHLIGHTS
- PLAYER PROFILES

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32 PAGES PACKED
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VIKINGS INFORMATION



MINNESOTA
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No this is not sour grapes... the Vikings have put together the best talent in the league and this appears to be the year to collect that coveted ring that has escaped them four times.

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**JIM McMAHON****CHICAGO BEARS**

The Bears had more draft choices (20) and more quarterbacks (4) than they knew what to do with entering this season's training camp. The draft choices always manage to sort themselves out. The quarterbacks never do.

This is a team with an unmatched five-year record of 62-17, five straight division titles, five straight years of unprecedented television commercials and network exposure, yet only one Super Bowl appearance. For three years in a row since winning Super Bowl XX, they have lost playoff games in their own backyard, cozy and cold Soldier Field. The Redskins dumped them twice and the 49ers ended their California fair-weather myth last season.

Why have the Bears lost? Simply, they haven't had sufficient production from their quarterback. Coach Mike Ditka argues loudly that quarterbacks get too much credit and too much blame, but his inability to rely on the shaky health of Jim McMahon plus his reluctance to rely on Mike Tomczak or Jim Harbaugh has added up to failure.

Losers three times last year (counting pre-season) to the Vikings, the Bears nevertheless managed to stay ahead of them in the standings thanks to Ditka's ability to consistently beat up on the other teams in the NFC Central. Since 1984, when the Bears started their dominance, they are an incredible 35-4 against the four other teams in their division. The Vikings have beaten them three times, the Packers once.

Still, the Bears haven't been able to return to the Super Bowl since the year there was no question about who was quarterback. "Last year, we weren't good enough," Ditka said. "It was a good accomplishment that we made it to the NFC championship game, but we didn't attain our goal."

BEARS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Butler, 82 points on 37 extra points and 15 field goals...7th
RUSHING—Anderson, 1,106 yards on 249 carries, 4.4 avg., 12 TDs...4th
PASSING—McMahon, 114 of 192 attempts for 1,346 yards and 6 TDs...unranked
RECEIVING—McKinnon, 45 receptions for 704 yards, 15.6 avg., 3 TDs...26th
INTERCEPTIONS—Jackson, 8 for 94 yards, 11.8 avg...4th
PUNTING—Wagner, 79 punts, 41.5 avg., longest 70 yards...2nd
PUNT RETURNS—McKinnon, 34 for 277 yards, 8.1 avg...8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Gentry, 27 for 578 yards, 21.4 avg...4th
SACKS—McMichael, 11.5 sacks...7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	14	At Miami (N)
	19	SAN DIEGO (N)
	27	KANSAS CITY (N)
September	2	At Los Angeles Raiders

1989 SCHEDULE		1988 SCORES
September	10	CINCINNATI.....
	17	MINNESOTA.....
	24	at Detroit.....
October	2	PHILADELPHIA (N).....
	8	at Tampa Bay.....
	15	HOUSTON.....
	23	at Cleveland (N).....
	29	LOS ANGELES RAMS.....
November	5	at Green Bay.....
	12	at Pittsburgh.....
	19	TAMPA BAY.....
	26	at Washington.....
December	3	MINNESOTA (N).....
	10	DETROIT.....
	17	GREEN BAY.....
	24	at San Francisco.....

1988 NFC CENTRAL CHAMPS



VOL. 14 NO. 10

PUBLISHED BY 55 ENTERPRISES, INC.

CHICAGO, IL

CHICAGO BEARS



NFC CENTRAL DIVISION CHAMPIONS

*BEARS READY THEMSELVES FOR '89 CHALLENGE

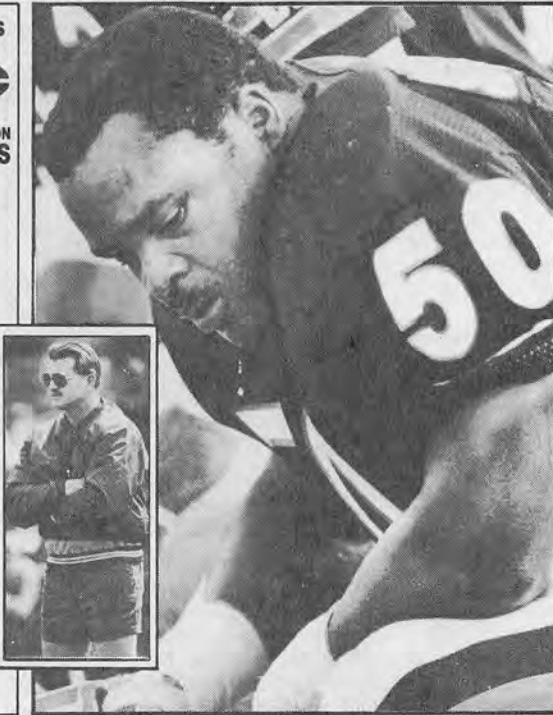
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Ditka threw open the quarterback job after choosing McMahon over Tomczak to start against the 49ers and watching the Bears lose with McMahon for the second year in a row. Three years ago, it was Doug Flutie who was Ditka's choice at quarterback in the playoffs. Although Ditka praises the development of former free agent Tomczak, he has yet to give him the ball in a big playoff game. As for 1987 No. 1 choice Harbaugh, Ditka says, "I think that Jim is learning." Maybe 1989 No. 7 pick Brent Snyder can add to the confusion.

The rest of the team is a good combination of youth, experience, and speed. New offensive coordinator Greg Landry alternated four wide receivers last year and will continue to use Dennis McKinnon, Dennis Gentry, Ron Morris, and Wendell Davis. While the speed of a Willie Gault is still lacking, there is effectiveness both deep and over the middle. The retirement of tight end Emery Moorehead leaves the position to James Thornton and Cap Boso and also costs the Bears speed.

Neal Anderson got to the Pro Bowl in his first year of trying to fill Walter Payton's shoes. One of the fastest halfbacks in the league, Anderson's endurance is still a concern for Ditka, who was spoiled by Payton. Thomas Sanders



will continue to spell Anderson in an effort to keep at least one healthy tailback at all times. The Bears drafted Notre Dame's Mark Green and Northwestern's Byron Sanders, Barry's brother, for depth. Second-year man Brad Muster won the starting fullback job, but he is more of a receiver and outside runner than a lead blocker, so veteran Matt Suhey appears secure for a 10th season.

The offensive line has been intact for six years, unusual stability for this vital area. From left to right, Jim Covert, Mark Bortz, Jay Hilgenberg, Tom Thayer, and Keith Van Horne constitute one of the better fronts in football. Covert, coming off a back injury, is a former Pro Bowler. Bortz and Hilgenberg were Pro Bowlers last year. Thayer has been a Pro Bowl alternate and Van Horne had his best season in his eighth year. Ditka would like to get more playing time for John Wojciechowski, who can play tackle or guard. Kurt Becker and John Adickes are valuable reserves, and the Bears drafted offensive linemen Dave Zawatson and Jerry Fontenot in the second and third rounds to add youth to the depth.

On defense, the Bears had not drafted a first-rounder since William "The Refrigerator" Perry joined them in 1985, the Super Bowl



season. Age and the recent loss of linebackers Wilber Marshall and Otis Wilson, lineman Al Harris, and cornerback Mike Richardson, forced them to address this area in this draft. Using their first two No. 1 picks, the Bears selected Clemson cornerback Donnell Woolford and Florida defensive end Trace Armstrong. Both will start immediately. Armstrong will replace Harris at left end opposite Richard Dent. One of the game's most feared pass rushers, Dent is coming off a broken leg.

At the tackles, the Bears have Dan Hampton and Steve McMichael, two veteran warriors both recovering from knee surgeries that seem to be an annual occurrence. Their contributions are legendary in Chicago, but Hampton is in his 11th year and McMichael in his 10th and their knees can't be expected to endure forever. Perry is a big problem, unable to control his weight. Dick Chapura, John Shannon, and Sean Smith vie for backup.

Middle linebacker Mike Singletary remains the best in football for his leadership as well as his play. He is flanked by Ron Rivera and Jim Morrissey with second-year men Dante Jones, Troy Johnson, and Mickey Pruitt ready for more action. All three had to start games as rookies and the Bears still won, a tribute to defensive coordinator Vince Tobin. In an attempt to replace the big-play capability of Marshall and Wilson, the Bears drafted Texas A&M's John Roper in the second round.

Woolford gets Richardson's spot at left cornerback and is expected to provide more consistent all-round play and better man-to-man coverage. Right cornerback Vestee Jackson had eight interceptions and is solid. In the middle, former all-pro strong safety Dave Duerson is back for his seventh year. The Bears are hopeful that free safety Shaun Gayle has recovered from a neck injury to reclaim his job from Maurice Douglass and David Tate. Lemuel Stinson and Lorenzo Lynch are backups.

Woolford is expected to provide spark as a punt-return man and Gentry is one of the league's more dangerous kick returners. Kevin Butler made 14 of his last 15 field-goal attempts and missed only four all year. The Bears would like to get him more than 19 attempts, but not if it means stopping short of scoring touchdowns. After unprotected free agency cost the Bears punter Bryan Wagner, the only punter they had on their roster at the start of the summer was Tampa Bay castoff Ray Criswell. But the Bears could rest assured in the knowledge that their scouts had provided punters all over the league—Green Bay's Maury Buford, Washington's Tommy Barnhardt, Philadelphia John Teitschik, and Cleveland's Wagner.

BEARS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
54 Adickes, John	C	6-3	264	25	Baylor
35 Anderson, Neal	RB	5-11	210	25	Florida
79 Becker, Kurt	G	6-5	269	31	Michigan
62 Bortz, Mark	G	6-6	272	28	Iowa
86 Boso, Cap	TE	6-3	240	26	Illinois
6 Butler, Kevin	K	6-1	204	27	Georgia
94 Chapura, Dick	DT	6-3	275	25	Missouri
74 Covert, Jim	T	6-4	278	29	Pittsburgh
82 Davis, Wendell	WR	5-11	188	23	LSU
95 Dent, Richard	DE	6-5	268	29	Tenn State
37 Douglass, Maurice	DB	5-11	200	25	Kentucky
22 Duerson, Dave	S	6-1	212	29	Notre Dame
23 Gayle, Shaun	S	5-11	194	27	Ohio St.
29 Gentry, Dennis	WR	5-8	180	30	Baylor
99 Hampton, Dan	DE	6-5	274	32	Arkansas
4 Harbaugh, Jim	QB	6-3	204	28	Michigan
63 Hilgenberg, Jay	C	6-3	260	29	Iowa
24 Jackson, Veslee	CB	6-0	186	26	Washington
92 Johnson, Troy	LB	6-0	236	25	Oklahoma
53 Jones, Dante	LB	6-1	236	24	Oklahoma
88 Kozlowski, Glen	WR	6-1	205	27	BYU
9 Kropke, John	DT	6-4	280	23	Illinois St.
44 Krumm, Todd	S	6-0	189	24	Michigan St.
43 Lynch, Lorenzo	DB	5-9	199	26	Sacramento St.
85 McKinnon, Dennis	WR	6-1	177	28	Florida St.
9 McMahon, Jim	QB	6-1	198	30	SMU
76 McMichael, Steve	DT	6-2	268	32	Texas
8 Morris, Ron	WR	6-1	193	25	SMU
51 Morrissey, Jim	LB	6-3	227	27	Michigan St.
25 Muster, Brad	FB	6-3	231	24	Stanford
72 Perry, William	DT	6-2	320	27	Clemson
52 Pruitt, Mickey	LBS	6-1	206	24	Colorado
59 Rivera, Ron	LB	6-3	240	27	California
20 Sanders, Thomas	RB	5-11	203	27	Texas A&M
75 Shannon, John	DT	6-3	269	24	Kentucky
50 Singletary, Mike	LB	6-0	230	31	Baylor
97 Smith, Sean	DT	6-4	290	24	Grambling
39 Stewart, Curtis	RB	5-11	208	26	Auburn
32 Stinson, Lemuel	DB	5-9	159	23	Texas Tech
26 Suhey, Matt	FB	5-11	213	31	Penn State
49 Tate, David	DB	6-0	177	25	Colorado
57 Thayer, Tom	G	6-4	270	28	Notre Dame
80 Thornton, James	TE	6-2	242	24	Fulerton St.
18 Tomczak, Mike	QB	6-1	198	27	Ohio State
78 Van Horne, Keith	T	6-6	283	32	Southern Cal.
73 Wojciechowski, John	G	6-4	270	26	Michigan St.

DRAFTEES

rd. name	pos	ht	wt	college
1 Woolford, Donnell	CB	5-9	185	Clemson
2 Armstrong, Trace	DE	6-3	260	Florida
2 Roper, John	LB	6-1	230	Texas A&M
2 Zawatson, Dave	OT	6-4	275	California
3 Fontenot, Jerry	OT	6-3	270	Texas A&M
4 Paul, Markus	S	6-2	200	Syracuse
5 Green, Mark	RB	5-11	185	Notre Dame
5 Gilbert, Greg	LB	6-1	220	Alabama
7 Brothers, Richard	DB	5-11	200	Arkansas
7 Snyder, Brent	QB	6-3	224	Utah State
8 Woods, Tony	DT	6-5	265	Oklahoma
8 Dyko, Chris	OT	6-6	295	Washington St.
9 Harper, LaSalle	LB	6-1	235	Arkansas
9 Sanders, Byron	RB	5-10	186	Northwestern
10 Millikan, Todd	TE	6-2	233	Nebraska
10 Simpson, John	WR	5-11	170	Baylor
11 Nelms, Joe	DT	6-4	260	California
11 Streeter, George	DB	6-1	205	Notre Dame
12 Weygand, Freddie	WR	6-0	190	Auburn
12 Phillips, Anthony	OG	6-2	278	Oklahoma

GREEN BAY PACKERS

All the Packers need is the Statue of Liberty moved into Green Bay. Give coach Lindy Infante your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The Packers signed 20 unprotected free agents, convincing them that Green Bay isn't as cold or as cheap as myth would have.

"Players said they were shocked at who we were, our facilities, and where we are going," Infante said. "They would say, 'I didn't know you had this kind of facility. I didn't know Green Bay was like this.' There is a perception out there that might be different from reality."

The perception that the Packers need help is as real as the ghosts that frequent Lambeau Field. Director of football operations Tom Braatz didn't sign all those free agents as goodwill ambassadors. "When you win four games, five games, and four games [1986-88], you can tell that you need some football players," Braatz said.

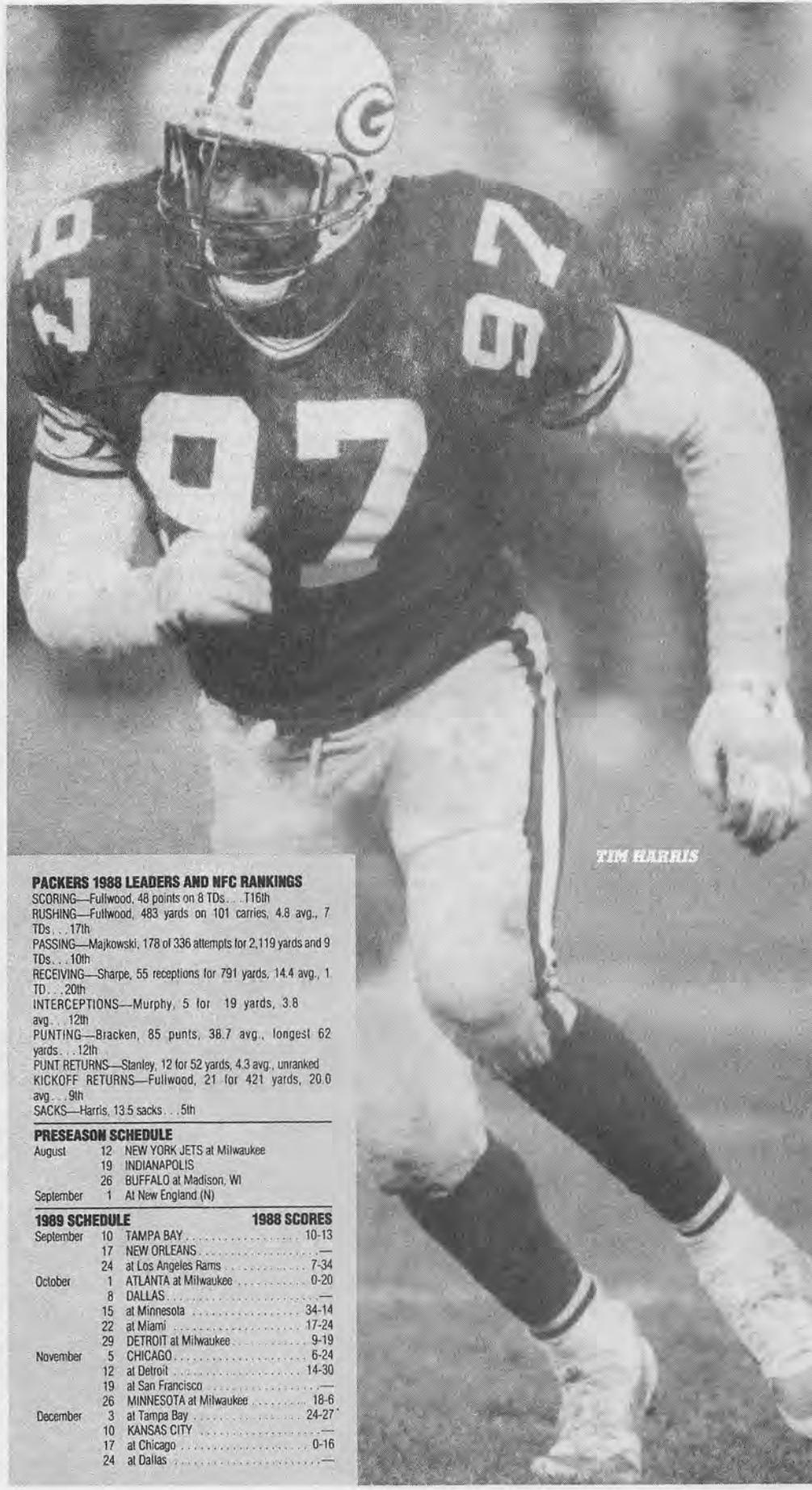
Competition is the first springboard to improvement, and at least the Packers have managed to provide it at most positions. A misconception is that the Packers are starting from rock bottom. They had the seventh-best defense in the league in yardage allowed last season, a good basis from which to grow.

The most obvious shortcoming remains at quarterback, where Don Majkowski and Randy Wright didn't settle much after a second year of jockeying. "It's not ideal," Infante admitted. "I told the quarterbacks we didn't come out of this thing the way we hoped we would. We went into the season without a true incumbent and came out the same way."

Winning their final game prevented the Packers from securing rights to the No. 1 draft pick, quarterback Troy Aikman. But it also demonstrated a pride that reflected one of Infante's strengths in his initial season. "There's an awful lot of character on this team," Infante said. "I feel good about where we're going and I feel good about the majority of people that are going to get us there."

Majkowski appears to have the inside track on the quarterback job because of his superior physical skill. But the ability to recognize defenses quickly and allow offensive patterns to develop is more crucial in Infante's pass-oriented offense than breaking out of the pocket to scramble or improvising occasional big plays. That's why Wright has a chance to reclaim the job he lost because of injury. It's also why third-round draft choice Anthony Dilweg of Duke has a chance to surprise both quarterbacks and jump to the forefront as a rookie. Of all the quarterbacks drafted in the first six rounds, Dilweg scored highest on the reading comprehension tests.

Better catching, running, and blocking will make for a better quarterback regardless of who gets the starting job. Receivers dropped an estimated 53 passes last season. No. 1 draft choice Sterling Sharpe caught 55, but dropped an estimated 11 and caught only one for a touchdown, falling far short of projections that touted him equal to or better than fellow rookie Tim Brown of the Raiders. "You're going to see a different football player in 1989," Infante said of Sharpe. Phillip Epps and Walter Stanley ended last season hurt, but they are fast and can help. The Packers added speed by drafting Jeff Query from little Millikin and by picking up Carl Bland from De-



PACKERS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Fullwood, 48 points on 8 TDs... T16th
RUSHING—Fullwood, 483 yards on 101 carries, 4.8 avg., 7 TDs... 17th
PASSING—Majkowski, 178 of 336 attempts for 2,119 yards and 9 TDs... 10th
RECEIVING—Sharpe, 55 receptions for 791 yards, 14.4 avg., 1 TD... 20th
INTERCEPTIONS—Murphy, 5 for 19 yards, 3.8 avg... 12th
PUNTING—Bracken, 85 punts, 38.7 avg., longest 62 yards... 12th
PUNT RETURNS—Stanley, 12 for 52 yards, 4.3 avg., unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Fullwood, 21 for 421 yards, 20.0 avg... 9th
SACKS—Harris, 13.5 sacks... 5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	NEW YORK JETS at Milwaukee
	19	INDIANAPOLIS
	26	BUFFALO at Madison, WI
September	1	At New England (N)

1989 SCHEDULE		1988 SCORES
September	10	TAMPA BAY..... 10-13
	17	NEW ORLEANS..... —
	24	at Los Angeles Rams..... 7-34
October	1	ATLANTA at Milwaukee..... 0-20
	8	DALLAS..... —
	15	at Minnesota..... 34-14
	22	at Miami..... 17-24
	29	DETROIT at Milwaukee..... 9-19
November	5	CHICAGO..... 6-24
	12	at Detroit..... 14-30
	19	at San Francisco..... —
	26	MINNESOTA at Milwaukee..... 18-6
December	3	Tampa Bay..... 24-27
	10	KANSAS CITY..... —
	17	at Chicago..... 0-16
	24	at Dallas..... —

troit. Draft choice Erik Affholter also will compete, because he doesn't drop many. Tight end Ed West will get competition from John Spagnola and Brent Novoselsky.

Change at running back is inevitable, with the future of Brent Fullwood still unsettled. He is more of a power back in a finesse offense, so he may have to share time with Keith Woodside and trade acquisition Herman Fotenot from Cleveland. Infante, whose team had a bigger pass-to-run ratio than any in the NFC, calls Fullwood "an octagonal peg in a round hole. All you've got to do is shave the edges a little and it'll fit." Former Philadelphia fullback Michael Haddix figures to get plenty of work and fifth-round draft choice Vince Workman will get a look. Add Bobby Howard from Philadelphia, Jeff Smith from Tampa Bay, and Darryl Harris from Minnesota to returnees Paul Ott Carruth and Larry Mason and Infante has a lot of options to improve a rushing attack that ranked 26th.

The drafting of Tony Mandarich means probable wholesale changes up front. Infante joked that Mandarich might be able to play the whole left side. It turns out he could affect more than that. One scenario has left tackle Ken Ruettgers moving to right tackle with right tackle Keith Uecker moving to left guard and left guard Rich Moran moving to center. Ron Hallstrom stays at right guard. There are many possibilities because Mandarich isn't the only newcomer. The Packers signed guards Billy Ard and Mike Ariey from the Giants, and centers Blair Bush from the Seahawks and James Campen from the Saints. In addition, incumbent center Mark Cannon and backup tackle Dave Croston are still in the picture.

The defensive line remains the most obvious weakness after quarterback. Third-round pick Matt Brock could have an instant job if he shows the talent that enticed some draft experts into projecting him as a first-rounder. Last year's second-round pick, Shawn Patterson, played well enough for the Packers to leave former No. 1 Alphonso Carreker unprotected. Nose tackle Jerry Boyarsky and end Robert Brown are adequate against the run. Blaise Winter had five sacks. Toby Williams arrived from New England and Doug Bartlett from Philadelphia to compete at nose tackle.

Linebacking was the team's strength, with Tim Harris leading the club in both tackles and sacks as a down lineman and standup linebacker. He has developed into one of the best defensive players in a league that should soon recognize him for the Pro Bowl. Brian Noble stuffs the run playing inside beside Johnny Holland. John Anderson is 33 and still lining up at left outside linebacker, where he remains more than adequate. Backups are Scott Stephen, John Dorsey, Burnell Dent, Mike Weddington, and newcomers Todd Howard and Curt Crain.

There is age in the secondary, where left cornerback Mark Lee is 31, right cornerback David Brown is 36, and strong safety Mark Murphy is 31. But none of the three appears ready for the rocking chair. The Packers picked up Van Jakes from New Orleans and Mickey Sutton from the Rams to push for cornerback jobs with Ron Pitts. Chuck Cecil appears to have supplanted Ken Stills at free safety. Tiger Greene has experience.

The Packers drafted place-kicker Chris Jacke in the sixth round after going through four kickers last year and ending up with Curtis Burrow. They signed Maury Buford from the Giants to challenge punter Don Bracken. Overall, Packer special teams were awful. There are jobs open for punt and kickoff returns. Sharpe and Fullwood ended up at those vulnerable spots and Infante has bigger plans for them. Harris was fifth in the NFC returning kickoffs for Minnesota. A bigger problem is getting opportunities to kick off. The Packers were 26th in scoring.

PACKERS VETERAN ROSTER

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
59	Anderson, John	LB	6-3	228	33	Michigan
67	Ard, Billy	G	6-3	270	30	Wake Forest
69	Bartlett, Doug	DT	6-2	257	26	No. Illinois
6	Beecher, Willie	PK	5-11	175	26	Utah State
40	Bland, Carl	WR	5-11	182	28	VA Union
82	Bolton, Scott	WR	6-0	188	24	Auburn
61	Boyarsky, Jerry	NT	6-3	290	30	Pittsburgh
17	Bracken, Don	P	6-1	211	27	Michigan
32	Brown, Dave	DB	6-1	197	36	Michigan
93	Brown, Robert	DE	6-2	267	29	VA Tech
9	Bulford, Maury	P	6-1	191	29	Texas Tech
5	Burrow, Curtis	K	5-11	185	27	Cen. Arkansas
51	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	272	33	Washington
63	Camper, James	C	6-3	270	25	Tulane
58	Cannon, Mark	C	6-3	258	27	Tex.-Arlington
30	Caruth, Paul	RB	6-1	220	26	Alabama
26	Cecil, Chuck	SS	6-0	184	25	Arizona
95	Crain, Kurt	LB	6-2	234	25	Auburn
60	Croston, David	OT	6-5	280	26	Iowa
72	Cupp, Keith	T	6-6	300	25	Findlay College
56	Dent, Burnell	LB	6-1	236	26	Tulane
80	Didier, Clint	TE	6-5	240	30	Portland St.
99	Dorsey, John	LB	6-2	243	29	Connecticut
85	Epps, Phillip	WR	5-10	165	30	TCU
	Fenton, Herman	RB	6-0	206	26	LSU
21	Fullwood, Brent	RB	5-11	205	26	Auburn
23	Greene, Tiger	DB	6-0	194	27	Western Carolina
35	Hadix, Michael	FB	6-2	227	26	Mississippi St.
74	Haley, Daryl	T	6-5	265	28	Utah
65	Halstrom, Ron	G	6-6	290	30	Iowa
97	Harris, Tim	LB	6-5	235	25	Memphis St.
50	Holland, Johnny	LB	6-2	221	24	Texas A&M
25	Howard, Bobby	RB	6-0	220	25	Indiana
53	Howard, Todd	LB	6-2	240	24	Texas A&M
92	Inglis, Tim	LB	6-3	237	25	Toledo
24	Jakes, Van	DB	6-0	190	28	Kent State
38	Jefferson, Norman	DB	5-10	183	25	LSU
62	Kauphi, Karli	C	6-2	271	30	Hawaii
26	Keel, Mark	TE	6-4	245	28	Arizona
94	Keller, Scott	NT	6-3	265	26	No. Illinois
81	Kemp, Perry	WR	5-11	170	28	Cal (PA)
10	Kiel, Blair	QB/P	6-0	214	28	Notre Dame
22	Lee, Mark	DB	5-11	189	31	Washington
7	Majkowski, Don	QB	6-2	197	25	Virginia
44	Mandeville, Chris	SS	6-1	197	24	Cal-Davis
34	Mason, Larry	RB	5-11	205	28	Troy St. (AL)
88	Matthews, Aubrey	WR	5-7	165	27	Delta State
98	Moore, Brent	LB	6-5	242	26	Southern Cal
57	Moran, Rich	OL	6-2	275	27	San Diego St.
37	Murphy, Mark	SS	6-2	201	31	West Liberty
79	Nelson, Bob	NT	6-4	275	30	Miami
91	Noble, Brian	LB	6-3	252	27	Arizona St.
43	Novoselsky, Brent	TE	6-3	232	23	Pennsylvania
96	Patterson, Shawn	DL	6-5	261	24	Arizona St.
27	Pitts, Ron	DB	5-10	175	27	UCLA
78	Reinke, Jeff	DE	6-5	275	27	Mankato St.
46	Richard, Gary	CB	5-9	171	24	Pittsburgh
75	Ruettgers, Ken	T	6-5	280	27	Southern Cal
83	Scott, Patrick	WR	5-10	170	25	Grambling
84	Sharpe, Sterling	WR	5-11	202	24	So. Carolina
81	Stanley, Walter	WR	5-9	179	27	Mesa College
54	Stephen, Scott	LB	6-2	232	25	Arizona St.
29	Stills, Ken	DB	5-10	186	26	Wisconsin
49	Sutton, Mickey	CB	5-9	172	29	Montana
70	Uecker, Keith	OL	6-5	284	29	Auburn
73	Veingrad, Alan	OL	6-5	277	26	E. Texas St.
52	Weddington, Mike	LB	6-4	245	29	Oklahoma
86	West, Ed	TE	6-1	243	28	Auburn
48	Wilkins, Gary	TE	6-2	235	26	Georgia Tech
90	Williams, Toby	NT	6-4	275	30	Nebraska
68	Winter, Blaise	DL	6-3	275	27	Syracuse
33	Woodside, Keith	HB	5-11	203	25	Texas A&M
16	Wright, Randy	QB	6-2	203	28	Wisconsin

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Mandarich, Tony	OT	6-5	315	Michigan State
3	Brock, Matt	DE	6-4	270	Oregon
3	Dilweg, Anthony	QB	6-3	215	Duke
4	Affholter, Erik	WR	5-11	180	Southern Cal
5	Quay, Jeff	WR	5-11	165	Millikin
5	Workman, Vince	RB	5-10	195	Ohio State
6	Jackie, Chris	PK	5-11	175	Texas-El Paso
7	Hall, Mark	DE	6-4	288	SW Louisiana
8	King, Thomas	DB	6-0	185	SW Louisiana
8	Shulman, Brian	P	5-10	189	Auburn
9	Kirby, Scott	OT	6-5	266	Arizona St.
10	Jessie, Ben	DB	6-0	205	North Texas St.
11	Stallworth, Cedric	DB	5-11	180	Georgia Tech
12	Shiver, Stan	DB	6-2	210	Florida St.



DON MAJKOWSKI

RAY NITSCHKE'S

PACKER REPORT

GREEN BAY

PACKERS

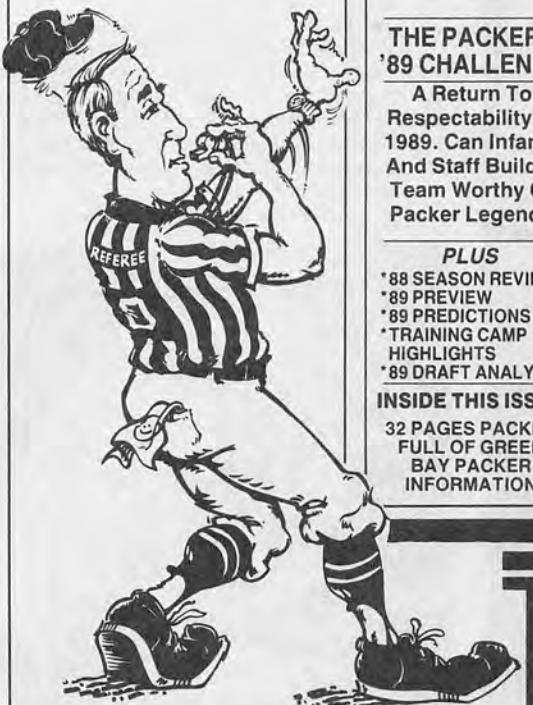
THE PACKERS '89 CHALLENGE

A Return To Respectability In 1989. Can Infante And Staff Build A Team Worthy Of Packer Legend?

PLUS
*88 SEASON REVIEW
*89 PREVIEW
*89 PREDICTIONS
*TRAINING CAMP HIGHLIGHTS
*89 DRAFT ANALYSIS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

32 PAGES PACKED FULL OF GREEN BAY PACKER INFORMATION



TIME OUT

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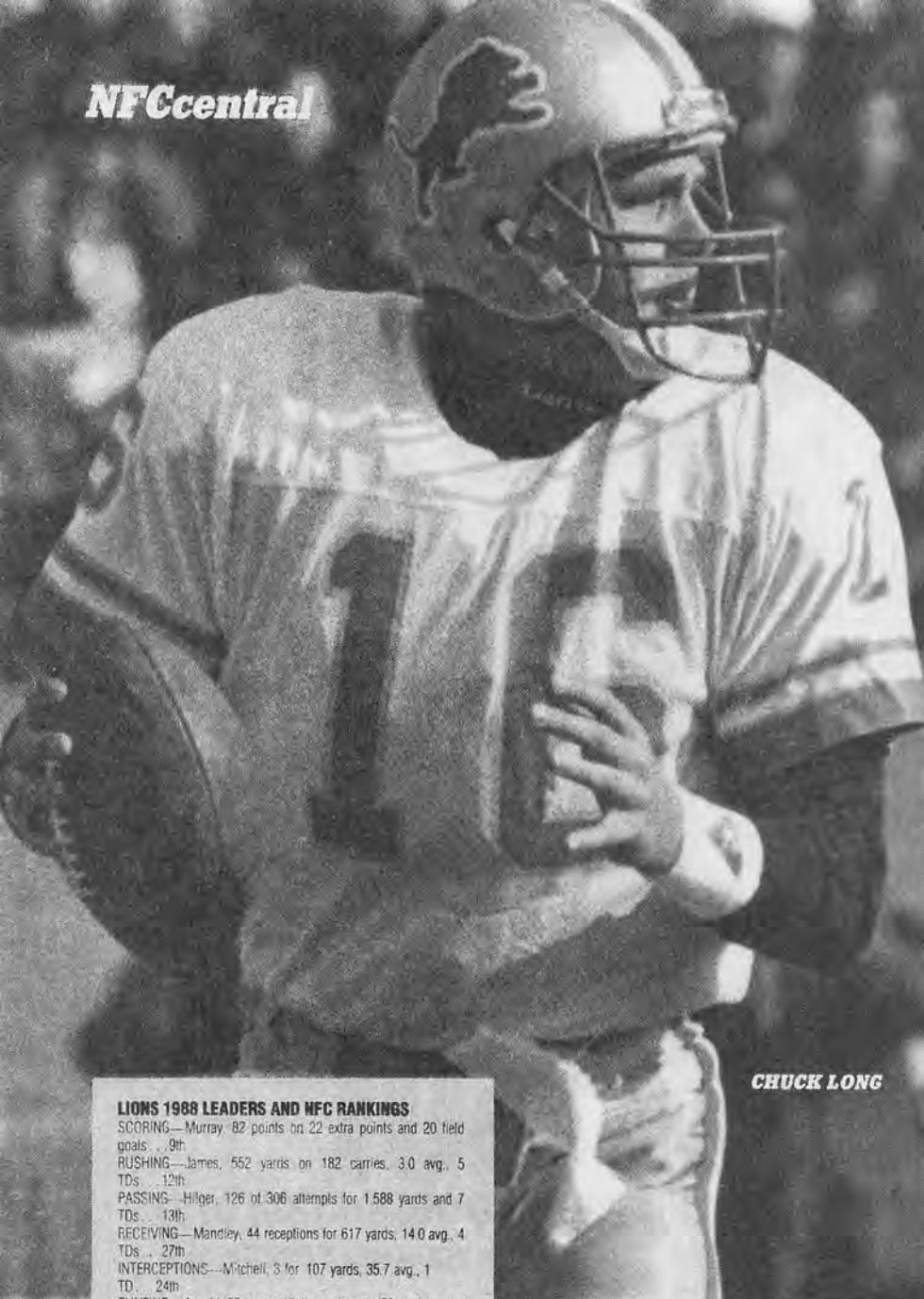
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SP-K11



CHUCK LONG

LIONS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Murray, 82 points on 22 extra points and 20 field goals, 9th.
RUSHING—James, 552 yards on 182 carries, 3.0 avg., 5 TDs, 12th.
PASSING—Hilger, 126 of 306 attempts for 1,588 yards and 7 TDs, 13th.
RECEIVING—Mandley, 44 receptions for 617 yards, 14.0 avg., 4 TDs, 27th.
INTERCEPTIONS—Michell, 3 for 107 yards, 35.7 avg., 1 TD, 24th.
PUNTING—Arnold, 97 punts, 42.4 avg., longest 69 yards, 1st.
PUNT RETURNS—Mandley, 37 for 287 yards, 7.8 avg., 10th.
KICKOFF RETURNS—Lee, 18 for 355 yards, 19.7 avg., unranked.
SACKS—Coler, 12.0 sacks, 6th.

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	CLEVELAND (N)
	19	CINCINNATI (N)
	25	At Seattle (N)
September	2	At Los Angeles Rams (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

	September	10	PHOENIX	10-30
	17	at New York Giants		7-24
	24	CHICAGO		
October	1	PITTSBURGH		
	8	at Minnesota	17-44	
	15	at Tampa Bay	10-24	
	22	MINNESOTA	0-23	
	29	vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	19-9	
November	5	at Houston		
	12	GREEN BAY	30-14	
	19	at Cincinnati		—
	23	CLEVELAND	14-22	
December	3	NEW ORLEANS	12-13	
	10	at Chicago	20-23	
	17	TAMPA BAY	31-17	
	24	at Atlanta		

DETROIT LIONS

The Lions are changing everything coach Wayne Fontes can lay his hands on. If the new run-and-shoot offense is successful, they will even have to change the light bulbs in the scoreboard. For a team that was 28th in offense, 27th rushing, 28th passing, 28th scoring, no change can be too drastic.

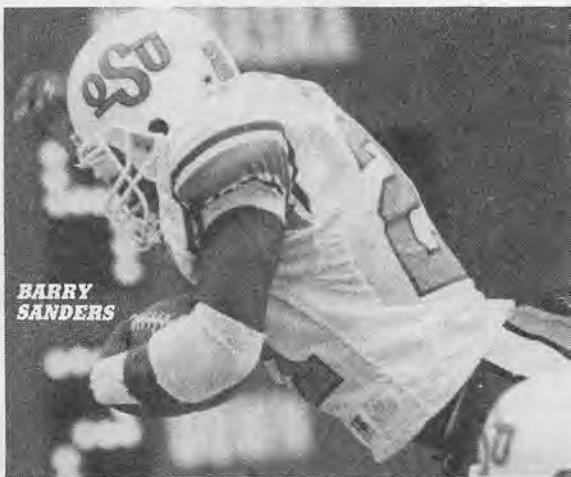
How does Rodney Peete rolling out and handing off to Barry Sanders sound? Good enough to sell tickets in the Pontiac Silverdome, where there are more echoes than fans? The Silver Stretch offense is only a gimmick until it moves the ball, but Fontes has assembled a proven cast of coaches and an interesting array of speedy athletes to give it a try. The Lions have nothing to lose. They have lost for 30 years.

If enthusiasm is good for a few touchdowns, the Lions will make it tough on their NFC Central rivals. They haven't beaten the Bears since 1983 or the Vikings since 1986, but even

that could change. The Lions had three mini-camps in a never-ending offseason. "The number one thing I want to establish during these camps is to develop a positive, winning attitude," Fontes said.

With Darrel "Mouse" Davis and June Jones hired to coach quarterbacks and receivers, fans will need wide-angle binoculars to see the lineup. "By using three or four wide receivers we really expect to stretch the defense," Fontes said. Heisman Trophy winner Sanders has expressed some doubt himself about the new concept, but it is unlikely he will get left out of the offensive plans. The Lions didn't draft him to be a decoy or a secondary receiver. They cite the Houston Oiler offense Jones helped coach last year. It used many of the same run-and-shoot concepts and Mike Rozier gained 1,002 yards rushing.

The addition of Peete at quarterback is the most intriguing aspect to the new plans. The Lions drafted Chuck Long No. 1 in 1986 and are still waiting for the payoff. Long's supporters emphasize that former coach Darryl Rogers never had a quarterback coach to teach Long the ropes. So Long should benefit greatly by the opportunity to work with Davis and Jones. Long is coming off elbow surgery,



BARRY SANDERS

however, and missed all the mini-camps. His health remains a concern. Veteran Eric Hippie also is working his way back from an ankle injury. Last year's addition, Rusty Hilger, impressed coaches by his gutsy style if not his 41 percent completion rate. So Peete arrives in the sixth round, but better late than never. He is entering a situation that might be tailor-made. He can run and he can throw on the run. Although his lack of arm strength cost him several rounds in the draft, the run-and-shoot relies more on short, quick sprint-out throws than long bombs. After one weekend look at Peete, Fontes said, yes, he was able to envision him as the starting quarterback in his rookie season.

The quarterback's targets are more numerous than the quarterback candidates. Second-round draft choice John Ford fits in perfectly as one of the bigger outside receivers along with Jeff Chadwick, Stephen Starring, Robert Clark, Gary Lee, and even tight ends Pat Carter and Rob Rubick. The inside receivers are quicker, littler guys like Pete Mandley, Ray Roundtree, Mel Gray, and 5-8, 173-pound Jason Phillips, the 10th-round draft pick who caught 108 passes for the University of Houston last season. The Lions also signed



WAYNE
FONTES

starters backed up by Chris Gambol, Eric Sanders, Ken Dallaflor, Eric Andolsek, Scott Barrows, and Curt Singer.

The defense, coached by Fontes until he was elevated to the top post last season, is less unsettled than the offense. The linebacking group is about as good as groups get. Chris Spielman led the club in tackles as a rookie and proved again that tape measures cannot separate football players from also-rans. Working next to Spielman, Dennis Gibson still managed to finish second on the team in tackles, making the middle a wrong-way street for opposing runners. Outside, the news was surprising last season when George Jamison came on for the injured Jimmy Williams so impressively that many observers felt he was the team's most valuable player. Jamison received the ultimate compliment when Williams asked to be traded. On

Special teams are a source of pride for the Lions under former Kansas City coach Frank Gansz. Eddie Murray missed only one field goal in 21 attempts last year, a 52-yarder. Jim Arnold led the NFC in punting for the second year. The addition of Mel Gray and Bobby Joe Edmonds from the unprotected lists is expected to improve the kick returning considerably.

LIONS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
65 Andolsek, Eric	G	6-2	277	33	LSU
6 Arnold, Jim	P	6-3	211	28	Vanderbilt
68 Baack, Steve	NT	6-4	265	29	Oregon
93 Ball, Jerry	NT	6-1	292	25	SMU
97 Baldwin, Tom	DT	6-4	270	28	Tulsa
61 Barrows, Scott	OL	6-3	280	26	West Virginia
25 Bernard, Karl	RB	5-11	205	25	SW Louisiana
36 Blades, Bennie	DB	6-1	221	23	Miami
75 Brown, Lomas	T	6-4	275	26	Florida
87 Carter, Pat	TE	6-4	250	23	Florida St.
91 Caston, Toby	LB	6-1	240	24	LSU
89 Chadwick, Jeff	WR	6-3	190	29	Grand Valley St.
45 Cherry, Raphael	S	6-0	190	28	Hawaii
2 Clark, Robert	WR	5-11	175	24	N.C. Central
55 Coler, Michael	LB	6-5	245	29	Tennessee
67 Dallaflor, Ken	G	6-4	278	30	Minnesota
41 Edmonds, Bobby	RB	5-11	186	25	Arkansas
77 Ferguson, Keith	DE	6-5	260	30	Ohio State
14 Gagliano, Bob	QB	6-3	205	31	Utah State
69 Gamblin, Chris	T	6-6	303	25	Iowa
98 Gibson, Dennis	LB	6-2	240	25	Iowa State
53 Glover, Kevin	OL	6-2	275	26	Maryland
23 Gray, Mel	RB	5-9	166	28	Purdue
62 Green, Curtis	OL	6-3	270	32	Alabama
34 Griffin, James	S	6-2	203	28	Mid. Tenn. St.
71 Hamilton, Steve	DL	6-4	270	28	East Carolina
12 Higler, Rusty	QB	6-4	205	27	Oklahoma St.
17 Hippie, Eric	QB	6-2	211	26	Utah State
43 Holmes, Jerry	CB	6-2	175	32	West Virginia
63 Irvin, Todd	T	6-5	288	24	Mississippi
33 James, Gary	RB	5-10	214	26	LSU
58 Jamison, George	LB	6-1	226	27	Cincinnati
30 Jones, James	FB	6-2	230	29	Florida
99 Jones, Victor	LB	6-2	245	23	Virginia Tech
99 Kab, Vito	TE	6-5	240	30	Penn State
83 Lee, Gary	WR	6-1	201	24	Georgia Tech
80 Lewis, Mark	TE	6-2	250	28	Texas A&M
50 Lockett, Danny	LB	6-2	250	25	Arizona
16 Long, Chuck	QB	6-4	221	26	Iowa
82 Mandley, Pete	WR	5-10	195	26	No. Arizona
29 McNorton, Bruce	CB	5-11	175	30	Georgetown (Ky.)
74 Milinichik, Joe	OL	6-5	275	26	N.C. State
31 Mitchell, Devon	FS	6-1	194	27	Iowa
42 Morris, Randall	RB	6-0	200	28	Tennessee
52 Mott, Steve	C	6-3	265	28	Alabama
3 Murray, Eddie	K	5-10	180	33	Tulane
86 Nichols, Mark	WR	6-2	208	30	San Jose St.
49 Paige, Tony	FB	5-10	235	27	Virginia Tech
26 Painter, Carl	RB	5-9	185	25	Hampton Inst.
51 Robinson, Shelton	LB	6-2	236	29	North Carolina
60 Rogers, Reggie	DE	6-6	280	25	Washington
47 Roundtree, Ray	WR	6-0	182	27	Penn State
84 Rubick, Rob	TE	6-3	234	29	Grand Valley St.
73 Salem, Harvey	OL	6-6	285	28	California
64 Sanders, Eric	OL	6-7	280	31	Nevada-Reno
72 Singer, Curt	T	6-5	279	28	Tennessee
54 Spielman, Chris	LB	6-0	247	24	Ohio State
81 Starling, Stephen	WR	5-10	172	27	McNeese St.
21 Tullis, Willie	CB	5-11	195	31	Troy State
35 White, William	CB	5-10	191	23	Ohio State
76 Williams, Eric	DE	6-4	286	27	Washington St.
59 Williams, Jimmy	LB	6-3	230	29	Nebraska
38 Williams, Scott	FB	6-2	234	27	Georgia
21 Woolfolk, Butch	RB	6-1	212	29	Michigan

the other side, Mike Cofer gives the Lions a nonstop force and supreme pass rusher who was finally rewarded with a Pro Bowl berth. Danny Lockett, Victor Jones, and Toby Caston lend depth.

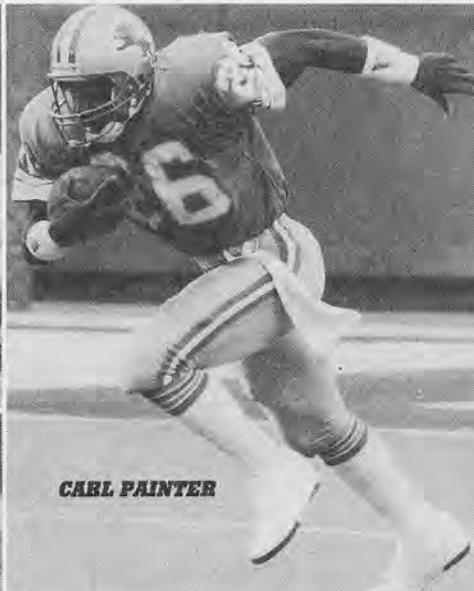
Up front, the Lions are still looking for more help. The future of 1987 No. 1 draft choice Reggie Rogers is in doubt at best after a fatal car accident that left him with a neck injury and legal problems. Eric Williams and Keith Ferguson are workmanlike ends who had 15 sacks between them, but Fontes would like more. Nose tackle Jerry Ball was effective in the middle and will get help from another draft choice, Lawrence Pete. Newcomers Steve Hamilton and Tom Baldwin and returning injured pass rusher Curtis Green will compete for backup spots.

Fourth-round draft choice Ray Crockett is the fourth rookie expected to step right into a starting spot. Left cornerback is where the Lions would like Crockett to assert himself. Veteran Jerry Holmes filled in last year. Bruce McNorton, backed by William White, is at right cornerback. Draft choice Jerry Woods and newcomer Willie Tullis also could be factors. Last year's top pick, Bennie Blades, moved in as expected at strong safety and played well. Devon Mitchell returned from serious knee surgery to reclaim his free-safety spot. James Griffin is an excellent backup.

Phillips's ex-teammate, free agent James Dixon, who caught 102. Carl Painter and Randall Morris, and former No. 1 pick Mark Nichols also are in the scramble for spots in an offense that never has too many receivers.

Sanders will either work alone in the backfield or play beside James Jones, with Garry James still in the picture. The lack of punch by the offense is illustrated by the fact that fullback Jones has failed to score a touchdown in two years. Sanders is coming off an awesome junior year at Oklahoma State, but he had to be convinced to leave school by his father, so his impact as a pro might not be as immediate as most people expect.

The Lions didn't stop with Sanders and Ford in adding offensive help. Third-round pick Mike Utley is a 6-6, 285-pound guard who is expected to enable Fontes to improve two positions. If Utley can start at left guard, Kevin Glover can move to center and replace Steve Mott. Tackles Lomas Brown and Harvey Salem and right guard Joe Milinichik are solid



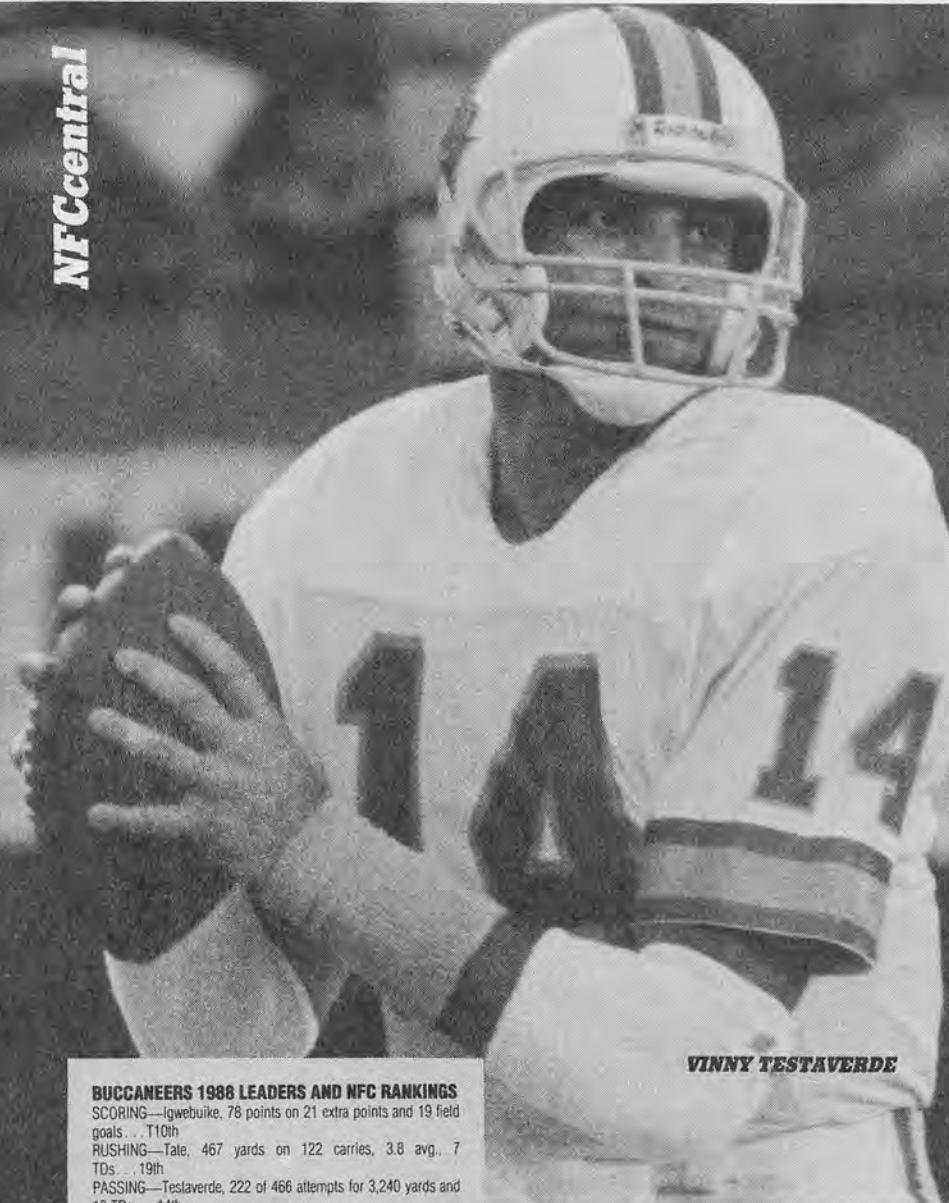
CARL PAINTER



JERRY HOLMES

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Sanders, Barry	RB	5-8	198	Oklahoma St.
2	Ford, John	WR	6-2	200	Virginia
3	Utley, Mike	G	6-6	285	Washington St.
4	Crockett, Ray	CB	5-9	180	Baylor
5	Pete, Lawrence	DT	6-1	280	Nebraska
6	Pete, Rodney	QB	6-0	194	Southern Cal
7	Woods, Jerry	DB	5-9	182	No. Michigan
8	Parker, Chris	DT	6-4	285	West Virginia
9	MacCready, Derek	DE	6-5	265	Ohio State
9	Smith, Monte	OG	6-4	265	North Dakota
10	Phillips, Jason	WR	5-8	173	Houston
11	Karpinski, Keith	LB	6-4	222	Penn State
12	Cribbs, James	DL	6-4	275	Memphis State



VINNY TESTAVERDE

BUCCANEERS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Igwebuike, 78 points on 21 extra points and 19 field goals...T10th
 RUSHING—Tate, 467 yards on 122 carries, 3.8 avg...7 TDs...19th
 PASSING—Testaverde, 222 of 466 attempts for 3,240 yards and 13 TDs...14th
 RECEIVING—Hill, 58 receptions for 1,040 yards, 17.9 avg...9 TDs...17th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Hamilton, 6 for 123 yards, 20.5 avg...6th
 PUNTING—Criswell, 68 punts, 36.4 avg., longest 62 yards...13th
 PUNT RETURNS—Futrell, 27 for 283 yards, 10.5 avg...3rd
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Elder, 34 for 772 yards, 22.7 avg...1st
 SACKS—Holmes, 4.0 sacks...T19th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	Houston (N)
	19	Atlanta (N)
	26	AI Indianapolis (N)

September	2	At Cleveland (N)
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1989 SCHEDULE

		1988 SCORES
September	10	at Green Bay.....13-10
	17	SAN FRANCISCO.....—
	24	NEW ORLEANS.....9-13
October	1	at Minnesota.....13-14
	8	CHICAGO.....15-27
	15	DETROIT.....21-10
	22	at Washington.....—
	29	at Cincinnati.....—
November	5	CLEVELAND.....—
	12	MINNESOTA.....20-49
	19	at Chicago.....10-28
	26	at Phoenix.....27-24
December	3	GREEN BAY.....27-20
	10	at Houston.....—
	17	at Detroit.....23-20
	24	PITTSBURGH.....—

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Vinny came, but he didn't see very well, and the Buccaneers have not yet conquered. Vinny Testaverde's first complete season at quarterback ended with too many completions to the other guys. His 35 interceptions was an NFL high since the merger. But you'd have to be blind to think Testaverde isn't this team's future, at least for the present. For one thing, the Buccaneers began to play good defense by the end of last season and the addition of No. 1 draft pick Broderick Thomas is designed to continue the trend.

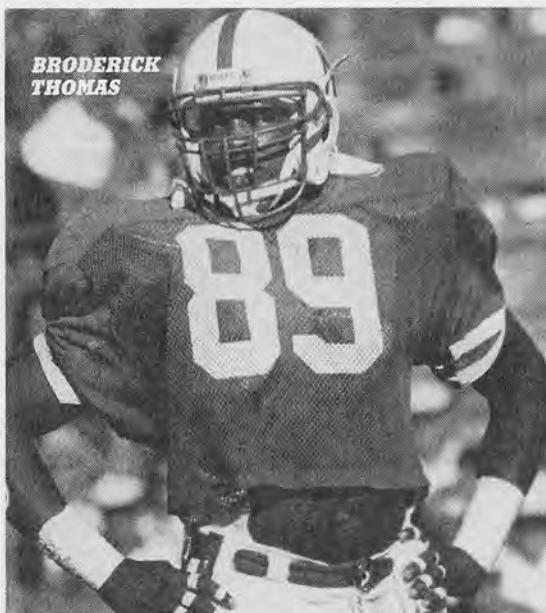
The Bucs either beat or were within a touchdown of 12 of their 16 opponents, a statistic for losers if there ever was one, but nevertheless hope for the future. There are other statistics more encouraging than Testaverde's interceptions, such as second in the league behind the Bears in rushing yardage allowed. The Bucs gave up just 3.2 yards per carry, tops in the league. In the final three games, the Bucs surrendered a total of 25 points, the best defensive performance in three consecutive games in the history of the franchise.

Confidence is built on such numbers. "A number of players expressed the feeling that we were just getting started when it had to end," coach Ray Perkins said. "We have the nucleus of the team in place. There will be less need for experimenting in training camp. We have developed an attitude of belief that should have a great carryover."

It was disbelief that greeted Testaverde's number of interceptions. But he also passed for 3,240 yards, fifth-best in the NFC, and he did stay healthy. Part of the cure for interceptions lies in a reduction of passes. If the Bucs can learn to run better and more often, Testaverde can learn that handing off patiently beats throwing wildly. In trying to do everything, he too often accomplished nothing.

In the last three weeks of last season, when the Bucs were 2-1, Testaverde threw as many touchdown passes (four) as interceptions and reflected his team's general optimism. "Thirty-five interceptions is tough to take, but I'll bounce back and have a great year next year," he said. The Bucs picked up unprotected Kerwin Bell to help Joe Ferguson back up Testaverde. Ferguson is 39, the oldest player in the NFL.

The Bucs improved from 27th to 17th in overall offense with a lineup that featured eight rookie or second-year starters for most of the season. Three of the players in Testaverde's sophomore class were wide receivers Bruce Hill and Mark Carrier and tight end Ron Hall. The trio combined for 154 catches and 2,565 yards. Hill's 58 for 1,040 and Carrier's 57 for 970 represented two of the four best seasons in team history in yards receiving.



BRODERICK THOMAS

Hall's impressive development both as a receiver and blocker made the departure of overweight Calvin Magee to Houston from the unprotected list easy to accept.

Frank Pillow, a 10th-round sleeper last season, will get company as a third receiver from this year's No. 2 pick, Danny Peebles, the fastest player in Tampa Bay history. Another factor at wideout is converted quarterback Don Smith, too good an athlete not to have a position. Jeff Parks backs up Hall at tight end.

The Bucs need help at running back before they can take pressure off Testaverde. Old

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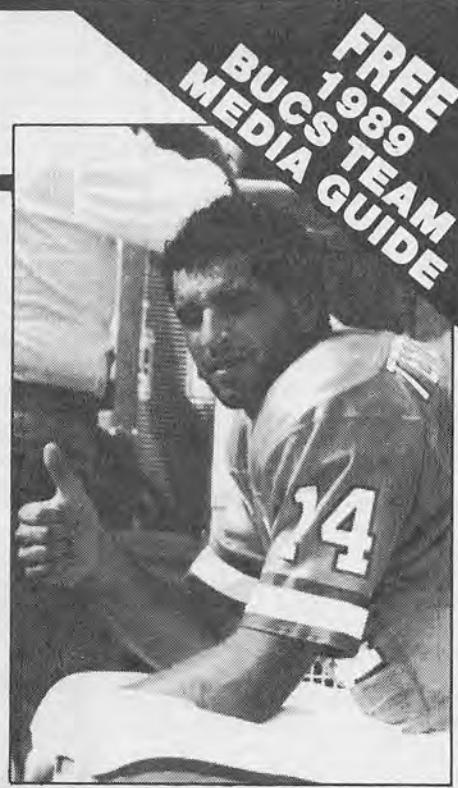
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reliable James Wilder wore himself out carrying this team on his shoulders before Testaverde arrived, but Perkins would love to get another productive year from him. Because William Howard played so well at fullback as a rookie last year, Wilder could be moved from that spot back to tailback for one last fling.

Another second-year back, Lars Tate, led the club in rushing from the tailback spot but needs to improve his receiving skills and his overall consistency. An attempted comeback from a serious 1986 neck injury by Nathan Wonsley is another possibility the Bucs will be watching closely. And to add to the alternatives, the Bucs drafted Nicholls State's Jamie Lawson in the fifth round. He is an interesting 5-10, 250-pounder who could throw his weight into the picture.

Left tackle Paul Gruber looks like a future all-pro anchoring the line along with center Randy Grimes. Gruber's fellow second-year linemen John Bruhin also played well enough to earn a shot at right guard opposite dependable Rick Mallory. The right tackle is Rob Taylor, Tom McHale, Mark Cooper, and three late-round draft picks will vie for backup.

Thomas will line up at right outside linebacker and try to give the Bucs what every team is looking for: a Lawrence Taylor-type pass rush. The Bucs had 20 sacks last year, the worst pass rush in the NFC. Philadelphia's Reggie White had 18 by himself. Right end Ron Holmes led the Bucs with four sacks, which might explain why they finished 26th in pass defense and were so good stopping the run. But Reuben Davis at left end and Curt Jarvis on the nose played so well as first-year



RAY PERKINS



JAMES WILDER

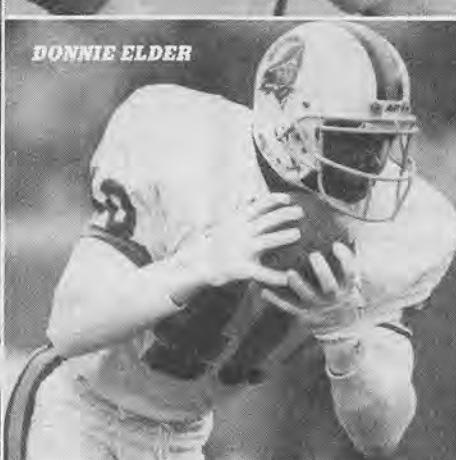
men that Perkins isn't ready to look for replacements yet. Davis led the down linemen in tackles. Another rookie, Robert Goff, filled in capably when Holmes was hurt, which is getting to be a bothersome occurrence. John Cannon and Shawn Lee are backups.

The 250-pound Thomas will replace Winston Moss, who has one sack in two years, and Moss possibly could challenge Kevin Murphy at left linebacker. Inside, Eugene Marve came from Buffalo and was a team leader in tackles. Rookie Sidney Coleman played well enough inside when Ervin Randle was hurt to challenge for full-time employment. The Bucs lost Jackie Walker, Chris Washington, and Victor Jones in the unprotected wars, so their depth has been affected.

Cornerback Ricky Reynolds is solid on the left side, but Bobby Futrell was able to beat out 1986 No. 1 draft choice Rod Jones on the right side and neither can play man-to-man consistently enough to please the coaches. Fourth-rounder Anthony Florence will get a look along with Donnie Elder, who shared the nickel job with Jones and reserve safety Odie



HARRY HAMILTON



DONNIE ELDER

Harris. At the safety spots, Mark Robinson and Harry Hamilton gave Perkins the best play in the middle the Bucs had seen in years. Free agents Sherman Cocroft and Sidney Johnson could contribute.

Chris Mohr was drafted to do the punting and Donald Igwebiuke is the most consistent unheralded place-kicker in the business. He has never missed from under 34 yards and someday Pro Bowl voters may learn to spell his name. Unprotected pickups Willie Drewrey and Sylvester Stamps could help Elder and Futrell return kicks, although the Bucs finished among the top 10 in both categories.

"I feel we are on the verge of being able to win on a consistent basis. I'm excited about getting on with it," Perkins said.

BUCCANEERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
45	Anno, Sam	LB	6-2	230	24	Southern Cal
11	Bell, Kerwin	QB	6-3	205	24	Florida
69	Bruhin, John	G	6-3	280	25	Tennessee
78	Cannon, John	DE	6-5	260	29	William & Mary
4	Carney, John	K	5-11	160	25	Notre Dame
88	Carrier, Mark	WR	6-0	185	24	Nicholls St.
25	Cocroft, Sherman	DB	6-1	190	28	San Jose St.
53	Coleman, Sidney	LB	6-2	250	25	Southern Miss.
71	Cooper, Mark	OT	6-5	280	29	Miami
79	Davis, Reuben	DE	6-4	290	24	North Carolina
87	Drewrey, Willie	WR	5-7	165	26	West Virginia
40	Elder, Donnie	DB	5-9	175	26	Memphis St.
12	Ferguson, Joe	QB	6-1	190	39	Arkansas
36	Futrell, Bobby	DB	5-11	190	27	Elizabeth City
44	Gladman, Charles	RB	5-11	205	23	Pittsburgh
94	Goff, Robert	DE	6-3	270	24	Auburn
60	Grimes, Randy	C	6-4	275	29	Baylor
74	Gruber, Paul	T	6-5	290	24	Wisconsin
82	Hall, Ron	TE	6-4	245	25	Hawaii
39	Hamilton, Harry	DB	6-0	195	27	Penn State
20	Harris, Odie	DB	6-0	190	23	Sam Houston St.
84	Hill, Bruce	WR	6-0	180	25	Arizona St.
90	Holmes, Ron	DE	6-4	265	26	Washington
43	Howard, William	FB	6-0	240	25	Tennessee
1	Igwebiuke, Donald	K	5-9	185	29	Clemson
95	Jarvis, Curt	NT	6-2	265	24	Alabama
31	Johnson, Sidney	DB	5-9	175	24	California
22	Jones, Rod	DB	6-0	185	25	SMU
75	Kellin, Kevin	DE	6-5	270	30	Minnesota
97	Lee, Shawn	NT	6-2	290	23	North Alabama
68	Mallory, Rick	G	6-2	265	29	Washington
99	Marve, Eugene	LB	6-2	240	29	Saginaw Valley
73	McHale, Tom	G	6-4	275	26	Cornell
58	Moss, Winston	LB	6-3	235	24	Miami
59	Murphy, Kevin	LB	6-2	235	26	Oklahoma
57	Najarian, Pete	LB	6-2	230	26	Minnesota
85	Parks, Jeff	TE	6-4	240	25	Auburn
80	Pillow, Frank	WR	5-10	170	24	Tennessee St.
54	Randle, Ervin	LB	6-1	250	27	Baylor
29	Reynolds, Ricky	DB	5-11	190	24	Washington St.
89	Richardson, Greg	WR	5-7	170	25	Alabama
30	Robinson, Mark	DB	5-11	200	27	Penn State
55	Rolling, Henry	LB	6-2	225	24	Nevada-Reno
47	Smith, Don	RB	5-11	195	26	Mississippi St.
93	Smith, Robert	DE	6-7	270	27	Grambling
24	Stamps, Sylvester	RB	5-7	185	28	Jackson St.
70	Swaine, Harry	DE	6-5	270	24	Rutgers
34	Tate, Lars	RB	6-2	215	23	Georgia
72	Taylor, Rob	T	6-6	295	29	Northwestern
14	Testaverde, Vinny	QB	6-5	215	26	Miami
50	Turk, Dan	G	6-4	260	27	Wisconsin
33	Valentine, Ira	RB	6-1	220	26	Texas A&M
32	Wilder, James	FB	6-3	225	31	Missouri
46	Wonsley, Nathan	FB	5-9	185	26	Mississippi

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Thomas, Broderick	LB	6-2	250	Nebraska
2	Peebles, Danny	WR	5-11	170	N.C. State
4	Florence, Anthony	CB	5-11	185	Bethune-Cookman
5	Lawson, Jamie	RB	5-10	250	Nicholls St.
6	Mohr, Chris	P	6-4	215	Alabama
6	Little, Derrick	LB	6-3	236	South Carolina
8	Bax, Carl	OG	6-4	275	Missouri
9	Egu, Patrick	RB	6-0	196	Nevada-Reno
10	Granger, Ty	OT	6-5	270	Clemson
11	Mounts, Rod	OG	6-4	285	Texas A&I
11	Griffin, Willie	DE	6-3	279	Nebraska
11	Duncan, Herb	WR	6-0	180	No. Arizona
12	Young, Terry	DB	5-10	180	Georgia Southern

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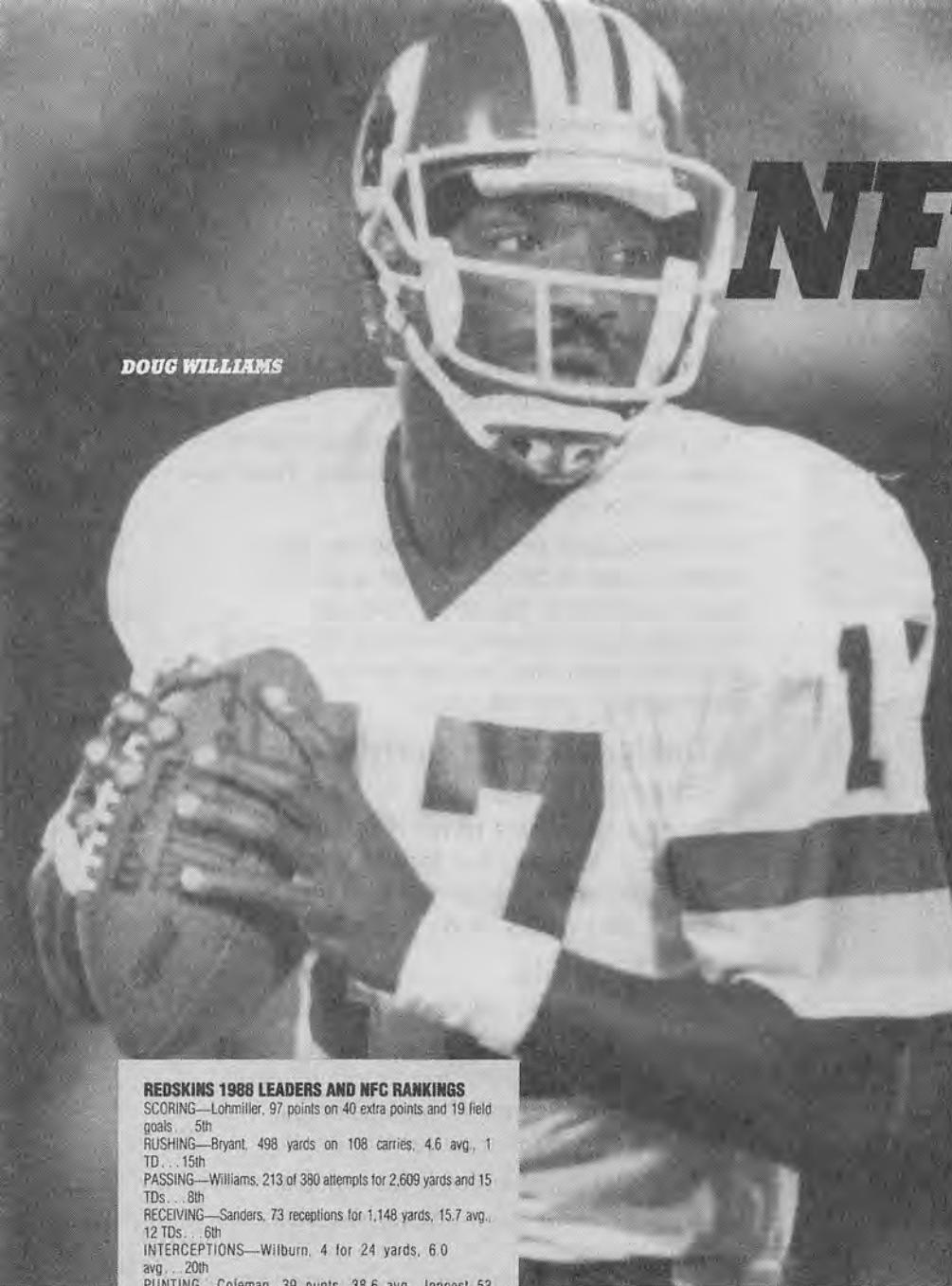
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REDSKINS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lohmiller, 97 points on 40 extra points and 19 field goals...5th
RUSHING—Bryant, 498 yards on 108 carries, 4.6 avg., 1 TD...15th
PASSING—Williams, 213 of 380 attempts for 2,609 yards and 15 TDs...8th
RECEIVING—Sanders, 73 receptions for 1,148 yards, 15.7 avg., 12 TDs...6th
INTERCEPTIONS—Wilburn, 4 for 24 yards, 6.0 avg...20th
PUNTING—Coleman, 39 punts, 38.6 avg., longest 53 yards...unranked
PUNT RETURNS—Shepard, 12 for 104 yards, 8.7 avg., unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Morris, 21 for 413 yards, 19.7 avg...10th
SACKS—Manley, 9.0 sacks...10th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	Buffalo Bills at Canton, OH
	12	At Pittsburgh (N)
	21	At Minnesota (N)
	25	MIAMI (N)

September 1 At New Orleans (N)

1989 SCHEDULE	1988 SCORES
September 11	NEW YORK GIANTS (N) 23-24
17	PHILADELPHIA 17-10
24	at Dallas 35-17
October 1	at New Orleans 27-24
8	PHOENIX 33-17
15	at New York Giants 20-27
22	TAMPA BAY —
29	at Los Angeles Raiders 24-17
November 5	DALLAS (N) 24-17
12	at Philadelphia 20-19
20	DENVER (N) —
26	CHICAGO 14-34
December 3	at Phoenix 21-30
10	SAN DIEGO —
17	at Atlanta —
23	at Seattle —

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

The Redskins lost the decade to the San Francisco 49ers last season when their 7-9 record prevented them from getting to their fourth Super Bowl (they have won two) of the 1980s. Now, even if they rebound and win it all again in 1989, they can only provoke a coast-to-coast argument.

They don't look like they can do it, but they didn't look like a Super Bowl team in 1987, either, when their 11-4 regular season wasn't nearly so impressive as San Francisco's dominating 13-2. But domination isn't the only road to the Big One anymore, for which coach Joe Gibbs can be thankful. The only thing about the Redskins that scares people is that they never stay down when they're out. Coming off their worst season since 1980, the Redskins aren't likely to start apologizing heading into the 1990s unless the loss of highly regarded GM Bobby Beathard leaves too big a void.

Changes are in store, but that is nothing new for the Redskins under Gibbs, a master of

transition who got caught in the switches last year because of injury as much as anything. Whether it's Joe Theismann, Jay Schroeder, Doug Williams, or Mark Rypien at quarterback, the Redskins manage to accomplish more than survival. Whether it's John Riggins, George Rogers, Timmy Smith, or Kelvin Bryant at running back, the Redskins manage to move the ball. This is the year of Gerald Riggs, or maybe Earnest Byner, two veteran running backs pried loose, respectively, from the Atlanta Falcons and Cleveland Browns. At quarterback, it might be Stan Humphries' turn.

The Redskins reside in football's toughest top-to-bottom division, where the Dallas Cowboys slipped from a title in 1985 to the bottom of all of football in 1988. Hamstring injuries take on inflated significance amid such competition. Some Washington fans argue that the Redskins' chances of repeating last year went out the door on two bounces of a long punt snap by Mike Scully in the season-opening loss to the New York Giants.

If buying chances is the key to winning the lottery, the Redskins showed they aren't afraid to spend. They shelled out \$800,000 on signing bonuses for 15 unprotected free agents, figuring that if one reasonable facsimile of Wilber Marshall emerges from their collective unwanted bodies, it will be cheaper than the \$6 million they paid Marshall. Turnovers in personnel are preferable to other kinds of turnovers. The Redskins were minus-24 in the takeaway-giveaway category, a league-low figure that tells all about a throwaway season.

Rypien and Williams combined to set club records for passing yardage (4,136), attempts (592), completions (327), passing first downs (202), and touchdown passes (33). But that's not necessarily good for a Gibbs' team. The two combined for a near-record 25 interceptions. They had to throw too much. The Redskins finished 25th in the league in rushing. "You can't win without balance, and we didn't have it," Gibbs said.

Presto, the Redskins wheeled and dealt to land Riggs and Byner, both capable runners on the down side of careers that sometimes have a way of rejuvenating in Redskin uniforms. Both will help take the running and receiving load off Bryant, who has proven he cannot hold up to the constant pounding of a full-time back and is best suited to his role as the top third-down specialist in the business. The emergence of Jamie Morris as a viable back in his rookie season also will give Gibbs the depth he likes in his backfield. By the season finale, Gibbs was so committed to re-establishing the run that Morris carried a league-record 45 times in a loss at Cincinnati.

Rypien is penciled in as the man who will do most of the handing off, although the Redskins held on to the coveted young Humphries despite trade rumors throughout the draft. Humphries spent his rookie season on injured

reserve with a blood disorder and didn't throw a pass. But reputations have a way of growing in Washington regardless of performance under fire. The Redskins also added Long Beach State quarterback Jeff Graham, a classic "sleeper" who was projected by some as a first-round surprise in the draft. He lasted until round four, but Humphries was a sixth-round pick last year. Williams will be 34 by season's start and may be best suited as a backup.

Ricky Sanders had a Pro Bowl season at wide receiver with 73 catches for 1,148 yards and 12 touchdowns, but he (1) didn't get voted to go to Hawaii and (2) never even started for the Skins. The classy third receiver was listed behind Art Monk all year opposite Gary Clark, but when other defenses lined up, they looked first for Sanders. He dropped only two passes and was a landslide winner as the club's MVP. The addition of veteran tight ends Mike Tice from Seattle and Ken Whisenhunt from Atlanta should bulk up Gibbs's one-back attack that has tight end Don Warren and backs Craig McEwen and Terry Orr returning.

After changing their starting offensive line seven times last season, the Redskins hope to line up with Jim Lachey at left tackle, Joe Jacoby at right tackle, Russ Grimm and Mark May at guards, and Jeff Bostic at center. If that group stays intact, it could be one of the league's best.

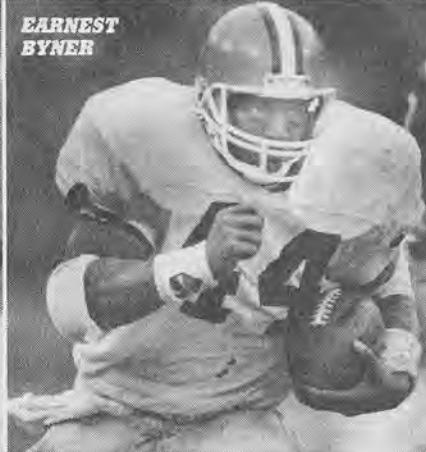
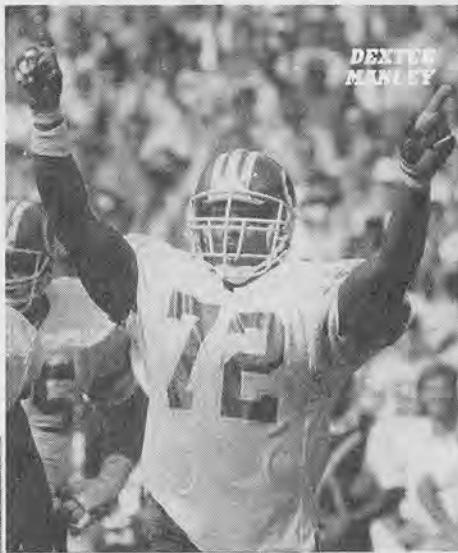
Injuries at cornerback to Barry Wilburn and Brian Davis hurt the defense, which finished 22nd against the pass. That's two spots better than their Super Bowl finish, but not where defensive coach Richie Petitbon would like. The Redskin picked up cornerbacks Martin Mayhew and Eugene Profit and safeties Chris Mandeville and Ellis Dillahunt in the unprotected grab bag, in an effort to revamp the secondary, where strong safety Alvin Walton is the only sure starter and the team's leading tackler. Former all-pro cornerback Darrell Green was on the trading block after missing the season finale with an injury, his first in 91 games as a Redskin. Todd Bowles is a free safety who could improve his tackling.



At linebacker, ageless middle man Neal Olkewicz again played too well to be replaced. Marshall was better than average but not the impact player he might become after a year in the new system. Monte Coleman and Mel Kaufman share the other linebacker spot.

Up front, where Dave Butz has been a fixture since the Ford administration, the drafting of Outland Trophy winner Tracy Rocker of Auburn represents the latest challenge. Although Butz set a club record for service, teammate Darryl Grant finished with more tackles than any Washington lineman of the '80s. When healthy, Dexter Manley and Charles Mann still form one of the better pair of pass-rushing ends in the league. The Redskins just couldn't get them on the field at the same time enough. They paid former Ram pass-rushing prospect Fred Stokes plenty in the unprotected sweepstakes.

Punting remains an unsettled puzzle unless Tommy Barnhardt or newcomer Greg Horne solves it. Place-kicker Chip Lohmiller had an inconsistent debut, ending with a blown 29-yarder that would have beaten Cincinnati. Lohmiller also missed a 36-yarder in a 24-23 loss to the Giants that left Gibbs on his knees, where all the Redskins ended up in another failed effort to repeat.

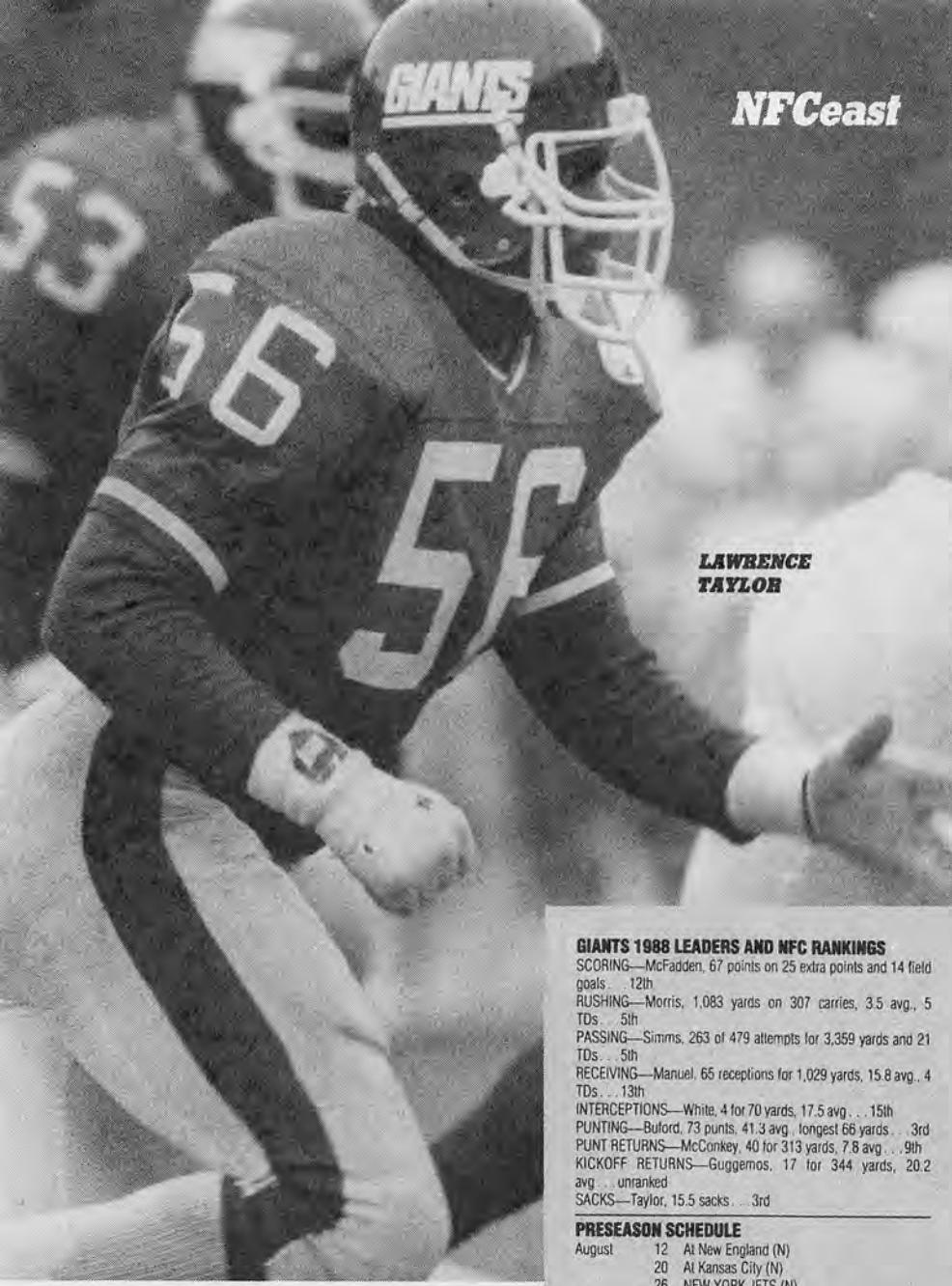


REDSKINS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
14	Bamhardt, Tom	P	6-3	205	26	North Carolina
69	Benish, Dan	DT	6-5	275	29	Clemson
	Bishop, Jim	OL	6-4	285	22	Tulane
56	Bonner, Brian	LB	6-1	225	24	Minnesota
53	Bostic, Jeff	C	6-2	260	31	Clemson
23	Bowles, Todd	FS	6-2	203	26	Temple
29	Branch, Reggie	RB	5-11	235	27	East Carolina
67	Brown, Ray	OL	6-5	280	27	Arkansas
24	Bryant, Kelvin	RB	6-2	195	29	North Carolina
	Byner, Earnest	RB	5-10	215	27	East Carolina
65	Butz, Dave	DT	6-7	295	39	Purdue
50	Caldwell, Ravin	LB	6-3	229	26	Arkansas
89	Chippis, Dale	WR	6-0	186	24	Towson State
84	Clark, Gary	WR	5-9	173	26	James Madison
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	230	32	Central Arkansas
34	Davis, Brian	CB	6-2	190	26	Nebraska
36	Dillahunt, Ellis	S	5-11	190	25	East Carolina
75	Duckens, Mark	DT	6-4	270	24	American State
92	Elam, Onzy	LB	6-2	225	25	Tennessee
54	Gouveia, Kurt	LB	6-1	227	25	BYU
57	Graham, Don	LB	6-2	244	25	Penn State
77	Grant, Darryl	DT	6-4	275	30	Rice
28	Green, Darrell	CB	5-4	170	29	Texas A&I
68	Grimm, Russ	G	6-3	275	30	Pittsburgh
78	Hamel, Dean	DT	6-3	280	28	Tulsa
59	Harbour, Dave	C	6-4	265	24	Illinois
62	Hitchcock, Ray	C	6-2	269	24	Minnesota
80	Hobbs, Stephen	WR	5-11	190	24	North Alabama
4	Home, Greg	P	6-0	188	25	Arkansas
16	Humphries, Stan	QB	6-2	223	24	NE Louisiana
66	Jacoby, Joe	T	6-7	305	30	Louisville
55	Kaufman, Mel	LB	6-2	230	31	Cal Poly-SLO
74	Koch, Markus	DE	6-5	275	26	Boise State
79	Lachey, Jim	T	6-6	290	26	Ohio State
8	Lohmiller, Chip	K	6-3	213	23	Minnesota
41	Mandeville, Chris	S	6-1	213	24	Cal-Davis
71	Mann, Charles	DE	6-6	270	28	Nevada-Reno
72	Manley, Dexter	DE	6-3	257	30	Oklahoma St.
91	Manusky, Greg	LB	6-1	242	23	Colgate
58	Marshall, Wilber	LB	6-1	230	27	Florida
96	Maxey, Curtis	DT	6-3	288	24	Grambling
73	May, Mark	OL	6-6	295	30	Pittsburgh
35	Mayhew, Martin	CB	5-8	172	24	Florida St.
32	McEwen, Craig	HB	6-1	220	24	Utah
37	McGill, Darryl	RB	5-10	210	23	Wake Forest
63	McKenzie, Raleigh	OL	6-2	270	26	Tennessee
46	Micho, Bobby	HB	6-3	235	27	Texas
88	Middleton, Ron	TE	6-2	252	24	Auburn
26	Mims, Carl	CB	5-10	180	24	Sam Houston St.
21	Monk, Art	WR	6-3	209	32	Syracuse
22	Morris, Jamie	RB	5-7	188	24	Michigan
61	Morris, Mike	OL	6-5	275	28	NE Missouri
	Nurunacher, Jeff	G	6-2	285	24	Clemson
52	Olkewicz, Neal	LB	6-0	230	32	Maryland
87	Orr, Terry	TE	6-3	227	28	Texas
21	Profit, Eugene	CB	5-10	175	25	Yale
38	Reaves, Willard	RB	5-11	200	30	No. Arizona
	Riggs, Gerald	RB	6-1	232	29	Arizona St.
11	Ryden, Mark	QB	6-4	234	27	Washington St.
83	Sanders, Ricky	WR	5-11	180	27	SW Texas State
76	Simmons, Ed	T	6-5	280	26	E. Washington
	Smith, Dennis	T	6-6	290	24	Baylor
60	Stokes, Fred	DE	6-3	262	25	Georgia Southern
64	Tamm, Ralph	G	6-3	285	23	West Chester St.
86	Tice, Mike	TE	6-7	244	30	Maryland
12	Tulen, Richard	P	6-2	218	24	Florida State
31	Vaughn, Clarence	S	6-0	202	25	No. Illinois
40	Walton, Alvin	SS	6-0	180	25	Kansas
85	Warren, Don	TE	6-4	242	33	San Diego St.
82	Whisenhunt, Ken	HB	6-3	240	27	Georgia Tech
45	Wilburn, Barry	CB	6-3	186	26	Mississippi
98	Williams, Albert	DE	6-5	243	24	James Madison
17	Williams, Doug	QB	6-4	220	34	Grambling

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
3	Rocker, Tracy	DT	6-2	280	Auburn
4	Graham, Jeff	QB	6-4	200	Long Beach St.
5	Smiley, Tim	DB	6-0	190	Arkansas St.
5	Robinson, Lybrant	LB-DE	6-4	225	Delaware St.
6	Johnson, A. J.	DB	5-8	176	SW Texas St.
7	Hendrix, Kevin	LB	6-3	266	South Carolina
9	Darrington, Charles	TE	6-3	228	Kentucky
10	Schlereth, Mark	OG	6-3	285	Idaho
12	Johnson, Jimmy	TE	6-2	246	Howard
12	Mickles, Joe	RB	6-0	212	Mississippi



NFC East

LAWRENCE
TAYLOR

GIANTS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—McFadden, 67 points on 25 extra points and 14 field goals...12th
RUSHING—Morris, 1,083 yards on 307 carries, 3.5 avg., 5 TDs...5th
PASSING—Simms, 263 of 479 attempts for 3,359 yards and 21 TDs...5th
RECEIVING—Manuel, 65 receptions for 1,029 yards, 15.8 avg., 4 TDs...13th
INTERCEPTIONS—White, 4 for 70 yards, 17.5 avg...15th
PUNTING—Buford, 73 punts, 41.3 avg., longest 66 yards...3rd
PUNT RETURNS—McConkey, 40 for 313 yards, 7.8 avg...9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Guggemos, 17 for 344 yards, 20.2 avg...unranked
SACKS—Taylor, 15.5 sacks...3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	At New England (N)
	20	At Kansas City (N)
	26	NEW YORK JETS (N)
September	2	PITTSBURGH (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

September	11	At Washington (N)	24-23
	17	DETROIT	30-10
	24	PHOENIX	44-7
October	1	At Dallas	12-10
	8	At Philadelphia	13-24
	15	WASHINGTON	27-20
	22	At San Diego	—
	30	MINNESOTA (N)	—
November	5	At Phoenix	24-17
	12	At Los Angeles Rams	31-45
	19	SEATTLE	—
	27	At San Francisco (N)	17-20
December	3	PHILADELPHIA	(OT) 17-23
	10	At Denver	—
	16	DALLAS	29-21
	24	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	—

1988 SCORES

have to come to this. Four or five plays and we could have been in," said coach Bill Parcells.

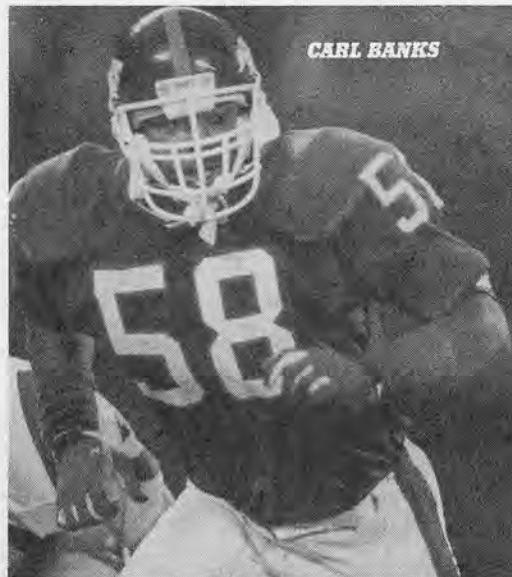
Only a few plays separated the Giants from the postseason last year. San Francisco's Jerry Rice caught a last-minute bomb from Joe Montana to beat them. Mark Bavaro dropped a fourth-quarter pass that would have beaten Philadelphia. But with the advantage of a fifth-place schedule, why did the Giants allow their fate to turn on a handful of plays? The Giants played only four games against teams that made the playoffs: Philadelphia twice, the Los Angeles Rams, and the San Francisco 49ers. They lost all of them.

"We just didn't do quite enough. We did more than a lot of people and just as much or more than some teams that got in. It didn't

The draft showed general manager George Young's continued commitment to revamp the entire offensive line, the foundation of most rebuilding projects. After selecting huge tackles Eric Moore and John Elliott 1-2 in last year's draft, the Giants added big guards Brian Williams and Bob Kratch 1-2 this year. With 1984 No. 1 pick William Roberts, the Giants now have offensive linemen from Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, and Ohio State—a Big Ten all-star front. Where they will fit among center Bart Oates and holdover guard/tackle Doug Riesenberger is fodder for debate, but it is safe to predict the Giants will field a new, young line in an effort to allow quarterback Phil Simms to reach his 33rd birthday in November safely. A projection would put Moore at left tackle where Elliott and Riesenberger played last year, Williams at left guard where Billy Ard played before choosing Green Bay over New York, Oates at center, Riesenberger at right guard where Moore and Damian Johnson toiled, and Elliott at right tackle where Karl Nelson made a valiant comeback from Hodgkin's disease only to discover complications by season's end. Center Frank Winters was the team's best unprotected signee, and Williams can play center, too.

The idea is to give Simms a split second longer to find his receivers and to give running back Joe Morris the extra inch he needs to squeeze through a crack. Simms had another stellar season, proving again that quarterbacks often blossom around the age of 30.

CARL BANKS



His passer rating of 82.1 was ninth in the league and represented his second-best year to 1987, when it was 90. Except for a three-game knee injury in 1987, Simms has been healthy five years in a row. It is crucial that he make it six if the Giants hope to rebound into the playoffs. Jeff Hostetler threw the first 29 passes of his five-year career last season.

Production at wide receiver finally improved last year with Lionel Manuel emerging from his first injury-free season with 65 catches for 1,029 yards. Mark Ingram and Odessa Turner missed 20 games between them, but both showed flashes of promise when they were healthy and tiny Stephen Baker passed his durability test with a big year: 40 catches for 656 yards. Ingram, the No. 1 pick in 1987, is

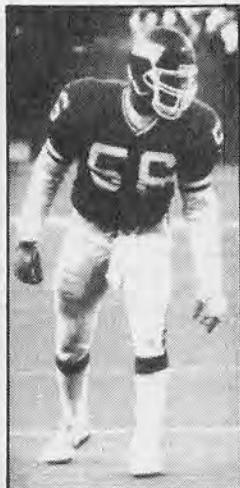
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one of several recent top Giant draft choices still trying to establish himself.

Tight end Mark Bavaro was a holdout before last season, along with linebacker Carl Banks, and when they returned with fatter wallets their production went flat. At least Young didn't have to worry about those two this summer. A turnaround by both is crucial. Zeke Mowatt keeps pushing Bavaro, who finished with typically high numbers but had what one observer described as an "invisible year."

Help for Morris at running back must come from either disappointing 1985 No. 1 draft choice George Adams or this year's middle-round picks Lewis Tillman and Dave Meggett, unless Ottis Anderson can still do it at age 32. Fullback Maurice Carthon is an outstanding blocker, which makes up for his shortcomings as a runner.

On defense, there is always Lawrence Taylor. Or is there? Taylor missed the first four games last year because of a drug suspension. By the end of the season, rumors of a trade were flying. Despite it all, Taylor was third in the league with 15 1/2 sacks and made his eighth Pro Bowl in as many years, a tribute to his truly unique ability. A return to 1987 form by Banks would clarify the situation at linebacker, where Johnnie Cooks and Ricky Shaw back up on the outside. In the middle, where Carson leaves a void, Pepper Johnson and Gary Reasons must become more consistent for the Giants to return to dominance.

There is speculation the Giants will play more four-man line, which isn't really much of a change because Taylor plays like an end

anyway. Eric Dorsey, No. 1 in 1986, is improving at left end but still plays the run a lot better than he rushes the passer. Right end Leonard Marshall must shake a groin injury and Erik Howard needs to beat out Jim Burt clearly at the nose. Brad Henke is a fourth-rounder who could help in the middle.

Changes in the secondary are expected with Sheldon White pushing Perry Williams at one corner and Mark Collins coming back from an injury on the other. White had such a good rookie year that Williams might be considered at safety, where Kenny Hill will be 31 and Terry Kinard 30 and both are beat up. Adrian White is a possibility at strong safety if he can forget about fighting long enough to tackle. Greg Cox was signed from San Francisco and the Giants added LSU's Greg Jackson in the third round to compete for a job.

On special teams, health is a concern. Punter Sean Landeta joined Banks and Ba-

varo as a holdout last year. All three missed the preseason and then Landeta injured his back and sat out the year. Maury Buford filled in admirably, but he has taken his leg to Green Bay. Place-kicker Raul Allegre also missed 10 games with groin problems and was replaced by Paul McFadden, who joined Atlanta. Punt returner Phil McConkey should be back for another season after again proving he's too good to replace. Hill and Neal Guggemos were average kickoff-return men.

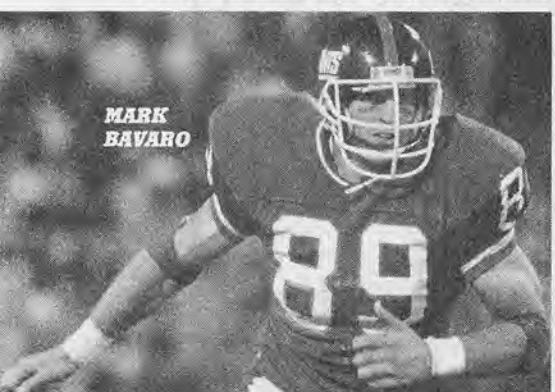
"The Giants do have a good team for the future," Carson said before departing. "We've had some success. I don't think you want to change that much," Parcells said.

GIANTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
33	Adams, George	RB	6-1	225	27	Kentucky
2	Allegre, Raul	K	5-10	167	30	Texas
	Althoff, Jim	DT	6-3	278	28	Winona State
24	Anderson, Ottis	RB	6-2	225	32	Miami
85	Baker, Stephen	WR	5-8	160	25	Fresno State
58	Banks, Carl	LB	6-4	235	27	Michigan St.
89	Bavaro, Mark	TE	6-4	245	26	Notre Dame
64	Burt, Jim	NT	6-1	260	30	Miami
78	Carter, Jon	DE	6-4	260	24	Pittsburgh
44	Carthon, Maurice	RB	6-1	225	28	Arkansas St.
25	Collins, Mark	CB	5-10	190	25	Fullerton St.
98	Cooks, Johnie	LB	6-4	251	31	Mississippi St.
	Cox, M. Greg	S	6-0	223	24	San Jose St.
77	Dorsey, Eric	DE	6-5	280	25	Notre Dame
76	Elliott, John	T	6-7	305	24	Michigan
28	Flynn, Tom	S	6-0	195	27	Pittsburgh
37	Haddix, Wayne	CB	6-1	203	24	Liberty
48	Hill, Kenny	S	6-0	195	31	Yale
15	Hosteller, Jeff	QB	6-3	212	28	West Virginia
74	Howard, Erik	NT	6-4	264	25	Washington St.
	Howard, Stanley	WR	5-10	170	24	Murray State
82	Ingram, Mark	WR	5-10	188	24	Michigan State
68	Johnson, Damian	T	6-5	290	27	Kansas State
52	Johnson, Pepper	LB	6-3	248	25	Ohio State
43	Kinard, Terry	S	6-1	200	30	Clemson
	Kunkel, Greg	OT	6-5	290	25	Kentucky
	Lambrecht, Mike	DL	6-1	275	26	St. Cloud St.
5	Landeta, Sean	P	6-0	200	27	Towson State
86	Manuel, Lionel	WR	5-11	180	27	Pacific
70	Marshall, Leonard	DE	6-3	285	28	LSU
80	McConkey, Phil	WR	5-10	170	32	Navy
60	Moore, Eric	T	6-5	290	24	Indiana
20	Morris, Joe	RB	5-7	195	29	Syracuse
84	Mowatt, Zeke	TE	6-3	240	28	Florida St.
65	Oates, Bart	C	6-3	265	31	Brigham Young
12	Perez, Mike	QB	6-1	210	24	San Jose St.
55	Reasons, Gary	LB	6-4	234	27	NW Louisiana St.
72	Riesenber, Doug	T	6-5	275	24	California
66	Roberts, William	T	6-5	280	27	Ohio State
81	Robinson, Stacy	WR	5-11	186	27	N. Dakota St.
22	Rouson, Lee	RB	6-1	222	27	Colorado
87	Schippang, Gary	TE	6-4	275	26	West Chester
51	Shaw, Ricky	LB	6-4	240	24	Oklahoma St.
11	Simms, Phil	QB	6-3	214	33	Monroe St.
	Simpson, Anthony	FB	5-9	240	25	E. Carolina
56	Taylor, Lawrence	LB	6-3	243	30	North Carolina
	Thompson, Reyna	DB	6-0	196	26	Baylor Univ.
83	Turner, Odessa	WR	6-3	205	25	NW Louisiana St.
73	Washington, John	DE	6-4	275	26	Oklahoma St.
27	Welch, Herb	DB	5-11	180	28	UCLA
36	White, Adrian	S	6-0	200	25	Florida
39	White, Sheldon	DB	5-11	188	24	Miami (OH)
71	White, Robb	DE	6-4	270	24	South Dakota
23	Williams, Perry	CB	6-2	203	28	N. C. State
	Winters, M. Frank	G	6-4	273	25	Western Illinois

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Williams, Brian	OL	6-5	295	Minnesota
3	Kratich, Bob	G	6-3	265	Iowa
3	Jackson, Greg	S	6-0	200	LSU
4	Tillman, Lewis	RB	5-11	190	Jackson State
4	Henke, Brad	DT	6-3	270	Arizona
5	Meggett, Dave	RB	5-7	175	Towson State
6	Cross, Howard	TE	6-5	245	Alabama
7	Popp, David	OT	6-6	285	Eastern Illinois
8	Guyton, Myron	DB	6-0	210	Kentucky
9	Greene, A. J.	DB	5-8	163	Wake Forest
10	Lowe, Rodney	DE	6-5	260	Mississippi
11	Rhinehart, Jerome	LB	6-4	240	UT-Martin
12	Smith, Eric	LB	6-3	230	UCLA



MARK BAVARO



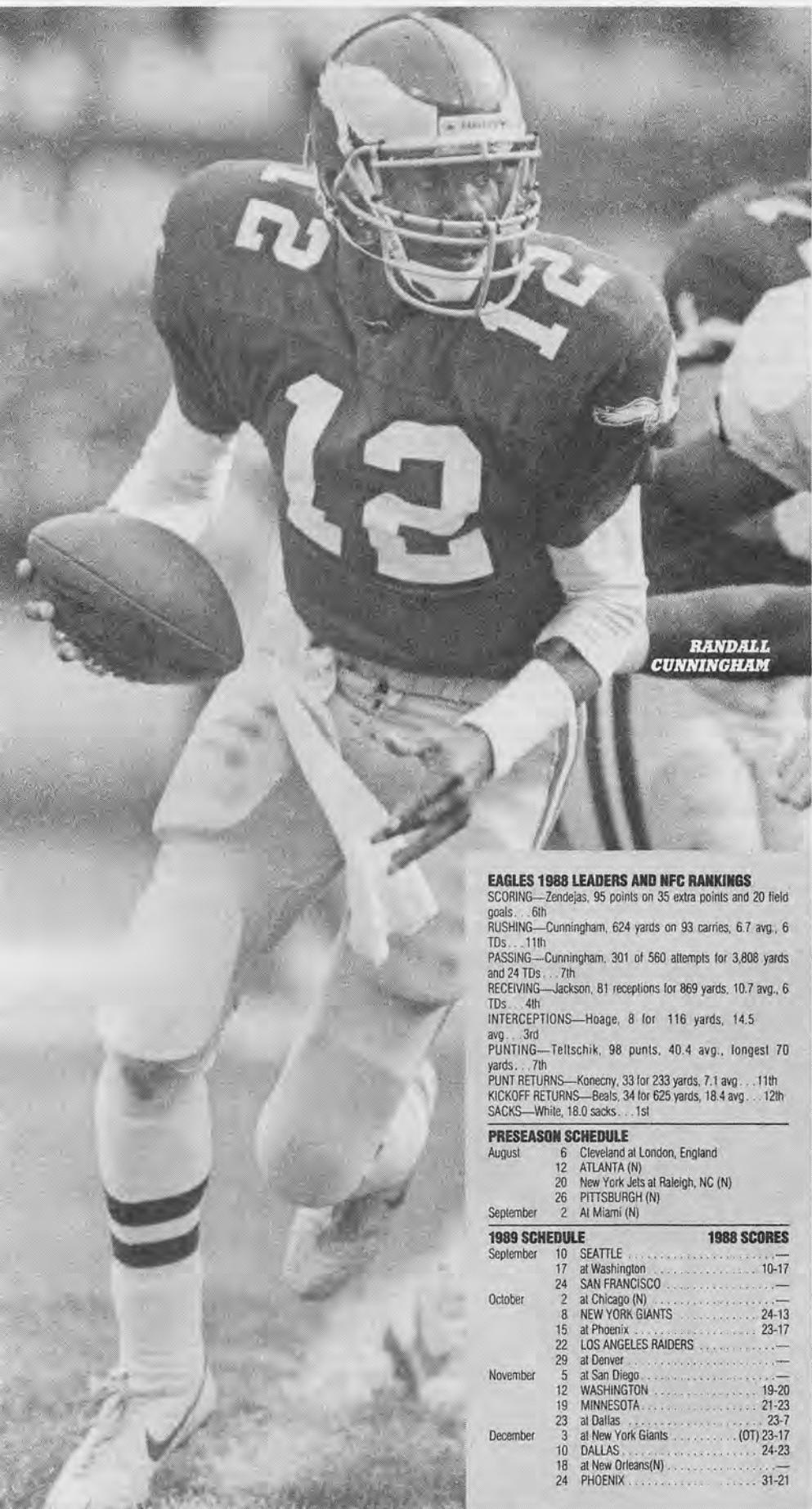
PHIL SIMMS



JOE MORRIS



PEPPER JOHNSON



RANDALL
CUNNINGHAM

EAGLES 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Zendejas, 95 points on 35 extra points and 20 field goals... 6th
RUSHING—Cunningham, 624 yards on 93 carries, 6.7 avg., 6 TDs... 11th
PASSING—Cunningham, 301 of 560 attempts for 3,808 yards and 24 TDs... 7th
RECEIVING—Jackson, 81 receptions for 869 yards, 10.7 avg., 6 TDs... 4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Hoage, 8 for 116 yards, 14.5 avg., 3rd
PUNTING—Teitschik, 98 punts, 40.4 avg., longest 70 yards... 7th
PUNT RETURNS—Konecny, 33 for 233 yards, 7.1 avg... 11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Beals, 34 for 625 yards, 18.4 avg... 12th
SACKS—White, 18.0 sacks... 1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	6	Cleveland at London, England
	12	ATLANTA (N)
	20	New York Jets at Raleigh, NC (N)
	26	PITTSBURGH (N)
September	2	At Miami (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

September	10	SEATTLE	—
	17	at Washington	10-17
	24	SAN FRANCISCO	—
October	2	at Chicago (N)	—
	8	NEW YORK GIANTS	24-13
	15	at Phoenix	23-17
	22	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	—
	29	at Denver	—
November	5	at San Diego	—
	12	WASHINGTON	19-20
	19	MINNESOTA	21-23
	23	at Dallas	23-7
December	3	at New York Giants	(OT) 23-17
	10	DALLAS	24-23
	18	at New Orleans (N)	—
	24	PHOENIX	31-21

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Before getting lost in the fog of Chicago's Soldier Field during the playoffs, the Eagles enjoyed a season in the sun. The question is whether it was a mirage. Until they found themselves strangely allergic to the Bears' end zone, the Eagles had experienced an entire season of good fortune that helped them win their first NFC East title since 1980. They finished last in the league in pass defense, 27th in overall defense, but second in interceptions. They were 17th in rushing, with a quarterback, Randall Cunningham, leading the way for the second year in a row.

Against the Bears in the playoffs, the Eagles crossed the 20-yard line eight times without scoring a touchdown. They should have had enough points during a clear first half to make the thickening fog irrelevant. But it all comes out in the wash. Dropped passes by the Giants' Mark Bavaro and the Cardinals' Roy Green preserved Eagle victories. They beat the Giants another time when defensive end Clyde Simmons picked up a blocked field-goal attempt by teammate Luis Zendejas and ran for a touchdown.

But luck wasn't the only factor in a 4-1 stretch run against division opponents. Having the Pro Bowl quarterback and the league's leading sacker, Reggie White, on your side helps create luck. More than good fortune was involved when Giants' linebacker Carl Banks knocked Cunningham completely off his feet, only to watch the quarterback break his fall with his left hand, right himself without his knees touching the ground, and throw a touchdown pass. "Overall, I thought we had a great season," coach Buddy Ryan said.

It was lucky for Ryan and his staff they did because owner Norman Braman is not known for his patience. A failure to repeat could be very unlucky, even though the Eagles toil in football's most competitive top-to-bottom division. If Tom Landry can get fired for finishing last once every 28 years, no coach is safe.

Cunningham is the kind of player that can make a coach feel secure. Entering his fifth year, he has established himself as the most dangerous offensive threat in the game. John Elway and Dan Marino can't run as well and Eric Dickerson and Roger Craig can't pass as well. The statistics are mind-boggling. Cunningham ran and passed for 4,432 of his team's 5,872 gross yards, 75 percent of the entire Eagles' offense. His ability to run probably is good for an extra second of protection while pass rushers hesitate. "I thought Elway was tough, but Cunningham was like a kick returner back there," said Bears' defensive end Al Harris, now an Eagle. "Sometimes I amaze myself," Cunningham admitted. Matt Cavanaugh is the backup with second-year man Don McPherson working to improve his arm strength.

The problem with Cunningham is he's such a good runner that the Eagles don't worry enough about the rest of their running attack, which is still below average. Cunningham became the first quarterback since Green Bay's Tobin Rote in 1951-52 to lead his club in rushing in consecutive seasons. Keith Byars caught 72 passes for 705 yards, but he is supposed to be a running back, not a wide receiver. He averaged only 3.4 yards a rush. "He can run like heck after he catches it, he ought to be able to run like heck when we hand it off to him," Ryan said. Running mate

Anthony Toney was at least as effective as Byars. "Toney's got to develop a toughness that he can play 16 games," Ryan said.

Ryan used two of his NFL-low four draft picks for running backs: Syracuse's Robert Drummond and Texas A & I's Heath Sherman. Michael Haddix was lost to Green Bay and Walter Abercrombie was a mid-season pick-up. Mark Higgs, an addition from Dallas, will get a long look.

The return of premier receiver Mike Quick after missing half the season with a broken leg should make Cunningham even more dangerous. Teamed with Cris Carter and outstanding tight end Keith Jackson, Quick could be better than ever. Another dimension to consider is the arrival of Henry "Gizmo" Williams from Edmonton of the Canadian League. He is 5-6 and will be the fastest man on the team. Jackson led all tight ends with 81 catches last year, but learned that even one drop can haunt you if it comes in the end zone of a playoff loss.

Philadelphia's patchwork offensive line will change faces again with former Rams' No. 1 draft choice Mike Schad starting at left guard to allow David Alexander to replace Dave Rimington at center. Former Colt Ron Solt, who cost Ryan his No. 1 draft pick, is penciled in at right guard provided he recovers sufficiently from surgery on both knees. Matt Darwin and Ron Heller are the tackles and the depth is slightly more promising than past

years with Ken Reeves, Matt Patchan, Ben Tamburello, Reggie Singletary, and Ron Baker competing for spots.

If Reggie White gets his contract problems resolved, think how well he might play happy. After leading the league in sacks with 18, White watched Buffalo's Bruce Smith get a \$7.5 million contract, then saw Dallas pay rookie quarterback Troy Aikman \$11 million before White even gets a chance to sack him. White anchors a front four of Mike Pitts, Jerome Brown, and Clyde Simmons that should be better than it is because of the mere presence of White. Simmons had eight sacks and Brown five, but Pitts had only 1 1/2. Steve Kaufusi, Mike Golic, and Joe Schuster could push for playing time.

More sacks would result from better linebacking. Harris was given the job at right linebacker that Ryan gave to Todd Bell last year. Ryan said his top draft choice, second-round Jessie Small, is the 1990 starter. Seth Joyner is coming off a stress fracture that put a damper on an outstanding season on the left side. Ryan wants Byron Evans to win the middle-linebacker job, but Mike Reichenbach keeps doing a better job of calling signals. Third-round pick Britt Hager of Texas, who cost the Eagles seven draft picks to Chicago to get, is a lock to make the team if not get playing time. Dwayne Jiles, Ty Allert, Ron Moten, and Paul Butcher are backup candidates.

Second-year cornerback Izel Jenkins will replace veteran Roynell Young opposite another second-year man, Eric Allen. A third two-year corner, Eric Everett, backs them up. Inside, former Bears' all-pro Bell gets to return to his old position of strong safety to compete with Andre Waters, who earned a reputation last season as the dirtiest player in football. Wes Hopkins and Terry Hoage split the free-safety spot with 13 interceptions between them. Hoage is the favorite to win the job this time, although it remains to be seen whether he can act as well as Hopkins, who was told to fake an injury to save time and did it so convincingly he had to be helped off the field.

William Frizzell is a competent backup at safety and corner. Sammy Lilly adds depth.

Gizmo Williams returned seven punts for touchdowns in just 2 1/2 years in Canada. Punter John Teltschik led the league with 101 kicks last year, a distinction the Eagles hope he doesn't repeat. Place-kicker Luis Zendejas enjoyed the atmosphere in Philadelphia better than he did in Dallas.

EAGLES VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
32 Abercrombie, Walter	RB	6-0	210	30	Baylor
72 Alexander, David	OL	6-3	282	25	Tulsa
21 Allen, Eric	CB	5-10	188	24	Arizona St.
58 Allert, Ty	LB	6-2	238	26	Texas
93 Bailey, David	DE	6-4	240	24	Oklahoma St.
87 Bailey, Eric	TE	6-5	245	26	Oklahoma State
63 Baker, Ron	G	6-4	275	35	Oklahoma St.
49 Bell, Todd	SS	6-1	215	31	Ohio State
64 Berardelli, Paul	OL	6-2	276	22	Villanova
16 Bowman, Kevin	WR	6-3	203	27	San Jose St.
99 Brown, Jerome	DT	6-2	295	24	Miami
51 Butcher, Paul	LB	6-0	230	26	Wayne State
41 Byars, Keith	RB	6-1	238	26	Ohio State
80 Carter, Cris	WR	6-3	198	24	Ohio State
6 Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	6-2	210	33	Pittsburgh
14 Cephus, Marvin	WR	5-10	173	24	Tulane
12 Cunningham, Randall	QB	6-4	203	26	UNLV
13 Czechowicz, Joe	WR	6-1	190	22	Ursinus
78 Darwin, Mall	T	6-4	275	26	Texas A&M
27 Dial, Alan	FS	6-1	188	24	UCLA
62 Donaway, Jim	G	6-2	282	22	Villanova
29 Edwards, Kevin	DB	6-0	187	25	Virginia
56 Evans, Byron	LB	6-2	235	25	Arizona
77 Evans, Donald	DE	6-2	258	25	Wisc.-Sal. St.
42 Everett, Eric	CB	5-10	170	23	Texas Tech
33 Frizzell, William	S	6-3	206	27	N. Car. Central
66 Gammie, Gregg	WR	5-10	175	29	Penn State
45 Gerhart, Tom	S	6-0	205	24	Ohio
83 Giles, Jimmie	TE	6-3	245	35	Alcorn St.
24 Gilliam, Melvin	DB	6-0	175	23	Oklahoma St.
90 Golic, Mike	DT	6-5	275	27	Notre Dame
95 Harris, Al	LB	6-5	265	33	Arizona St.
73 Heller, Ron	T	6-4	280	27	Penn State
81 Hess, William	DB/WR	5-9	172	23	West Chester
22 Higgs, Mark	RB	5-7	200	23	Kentucky
34 Hoage, Terry	FS	6-3	201	27	Georgia
84 Holloway, Derek	WR	5-8	162	28	Arkansas
48 Hopkins, Wes	FS	6-1	215	28	SMU
18 Ivory, Thai	WR	6-1	188	25	Nevada-Reno
88 Jackson, Keith	TE	6-2	250	24	Oklahoma
46 Jenkins, Izel	CB	5-10	191	25	N. C. State
53 Jiles, Dwayne	LB	6-4	245	28	Texas Tech
85 Johnson, Ron	WR	6-3	190	31	Long Beach St.
59 Joyner, Seth	LB	6-2	248	25	Texas-El Paso
94 Kaufusi, Steve	DE	6-4	274	26	Bingham Young
97 Klingel, John	DE	6-3	270	26	E. Kentucky
37 Lilly, Sammy	DB	5-9	178	24	Georgia Tech
89 Little, David	TE	6-2	230	28	Middle Tennessee
17 Loving, James	WR	5-9	183	23	Wyoming
2 Makor, Jao	K	5-11	195	26	Tennessee St.
9 McHerson, Don	QB	6-1	193	24	Syracuse
76 Miller, Ed	OL	6-4	268	24	Pittsburgh
57 Moten, Ron	LB	6-1	237	25	Florida
11 Niemela, Al	QB	6-1	205	23	West Chester
71 Patchan, Matt	OT	6-4	270	24	Miami
74 Pitts, Mike	DT	6-5	277	29	Alabama
82 Quick, Mike	WR	6-2	195	30	N. C. State
66 Reeves, Ken	OL	6-5	270	28	Texas A&M
55 Reichenbach, Mike	LB	6-2	235	28	East Stroudsburg
50 Rimington, Dave	C	6-3	285	29	Nebraska
79 Schad, Mike	G	6-5	290	26	Queens (Canada)
98 Schuster, Joe	DT	6-4	270	25	Iowa
96 Simmons, Clyde	DE	6-4	275	25	Western Carolina
68 Singletary, Reggie	G-T	6-3	285	25	N. C. State
65 Solt, Ron	G	6-3	288	27	Maryland
61 Tamburello, Ben	OL	6-3	278	25	Auburn
10 Teltschik, John	P	6-2	210	25	Texas
25 Toney, Anthony	RB	6-0	227	27	Texas A&M
20 Walters, Andre	SS	5-11	199	27	Cheyney
92 White, Reggie	DE	6-5	285	28	Tennessee
19 Williams, Henry	WR	5-6	185	27	East Carolina
43 Young, Roynell	CB	6-1	185	32	Alcorn St.
8 Zendejas, Luis	K	5-9	170	28	Arizona St.

DRAFTEES

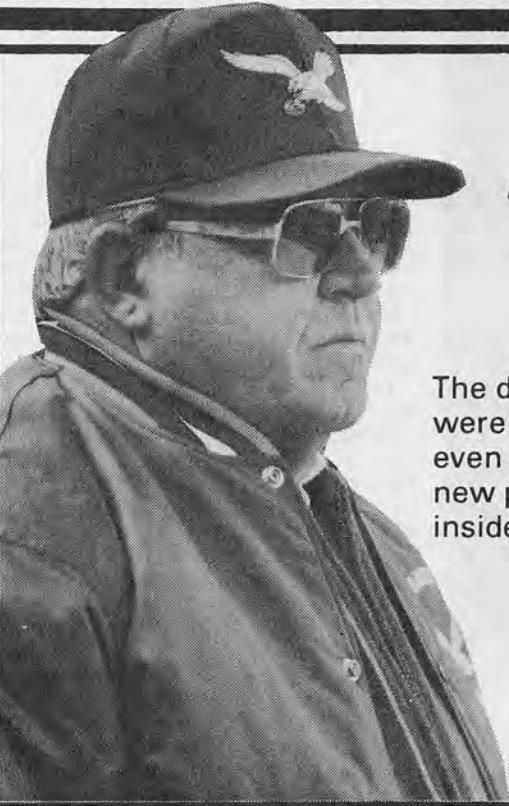
rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Small, Jessie	LB	6-4	240	E. Kentucky
3	Drummond, Robert	RB	6-1	205	Syracuse
3	Hager, Britt	LB	6-1	230	Texas
6	Sherman, Heath	RB	5-10	195	Texas A&I

ANTHONY TONEY

KEITH BYARS

REGGIE WHITE

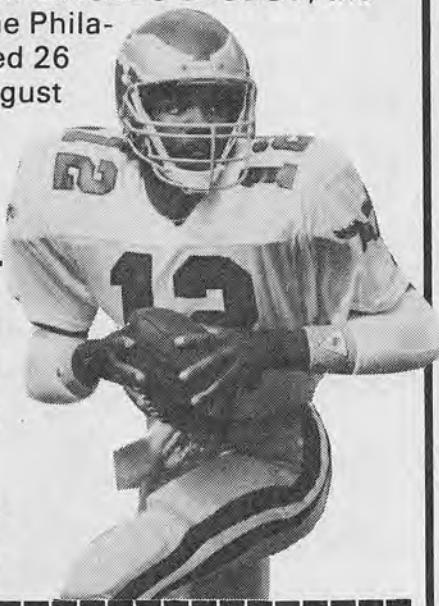




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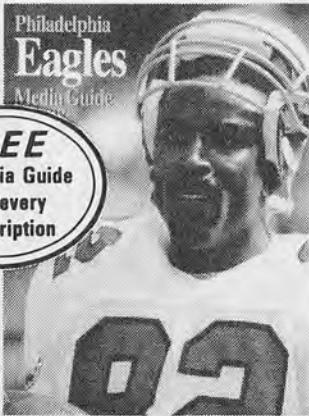
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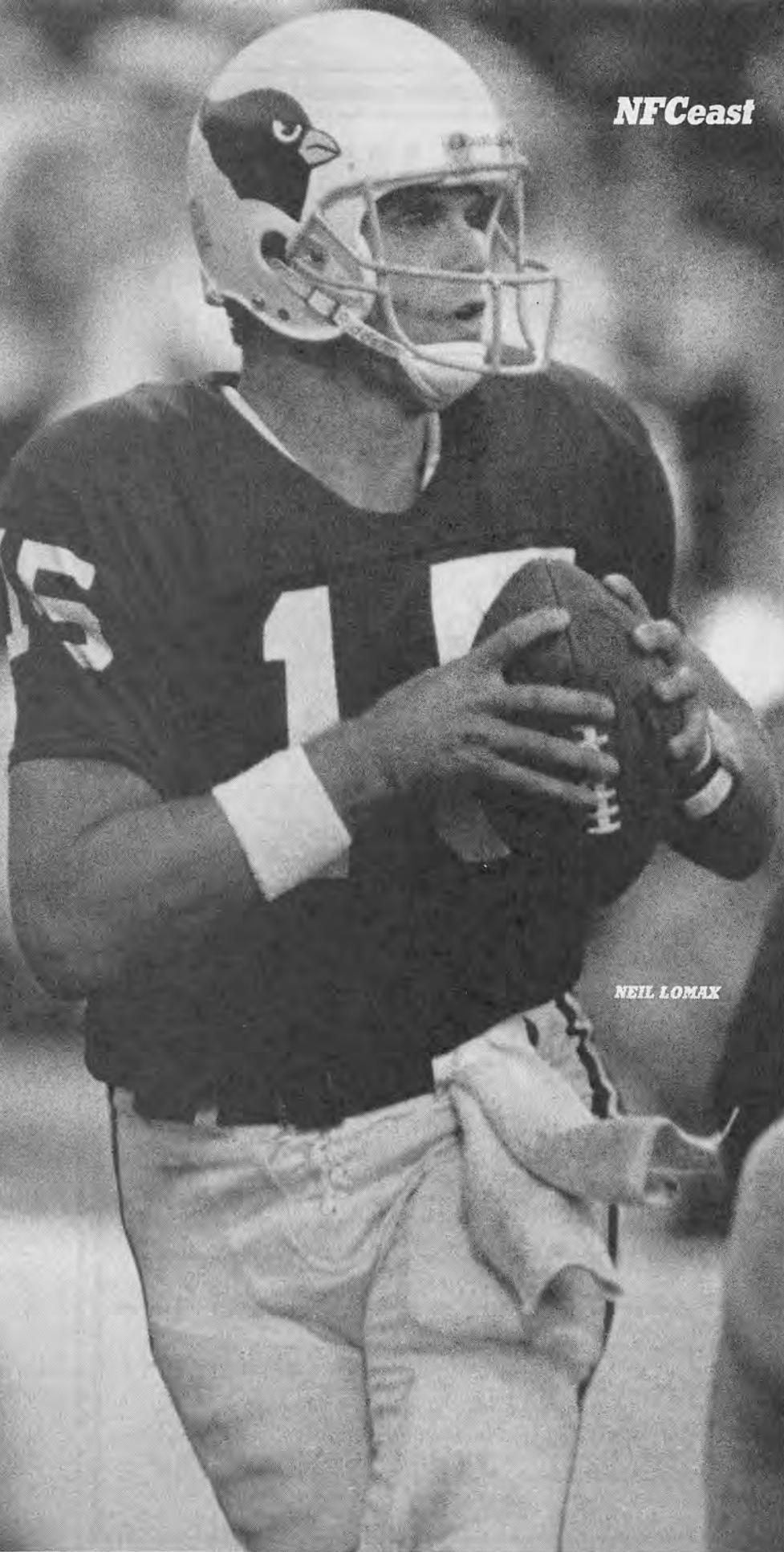
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NFC East



NEIL LOMAX

PHOENIX CARDINALS

The Cardinals are on a five-game losing streak, the longest in the NFL. Such futility makes Cardinal fans feel at home whether their team is residing in Phoenix, St. Louis, or Chicago. After a 7-4 start and consecutive victories over the 49ers and Giants, the Cards really went south, fumbling 17 times, throwing 19 interceptions, and committing 39 penalties for 270 yards in the final five weeks. "A nightmare," tackle Luis Sharpe said. "This is very embarrassing. I feel sorry for the city of Phoenix. I just want to dig a hole and hide," quarterback Neil Lomax said.

Owner Bill Bidwill lowered a few ticket prices after a season-low crowd of 44,586 watched the final loss to the Packers. In the club's inaugural season in Phoenix, fans set a franchise record of 472,937 total attendance despite the highest average ticket price in the NFL: \$38. They didn't get their money's worth, and there are indications that the Cards will have to win before they come back.

The Cardinals added quarterback Gary Hogeboom from the unprotected lists and were hailed for having a solid draft for a change. Those moves alone could generate enough renewed interest to prolong the marriage now that the honeymoon is most assuredly over.

But there is something else interesting about the Cardinals. They are getting old, especially on offense, where they have been able to compete with anybody in recent years. In Phoenix, age is relative. On the football field, it is dangerous. Lomax is 30 and Hogeboom is six months older. Top receivers J.T. Smith and Roy Green will be 34 and 32, respectively, by season's end. Running back Stump Mitchell is 30 and beat up. Fullback Earl Ferrell is 31. Big tackles Tootie Robbins and Luis Sharpe are 31 and 29, respectively. Coach Gene Stallings is 54 and aging fast.

CARDINALS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Del Greco, 78 points on 42 extra points and 12 field goals...10th
RUSHING—Ferrell, 924 yards on 202 carries, 4.6 avg., 7 TDs...7th
PASSING—Lomax, 255 of 443 attempts for 3,395 yards and 20 TDs...4th
RECEIVING—Smith, 83 receptions, 986 yards, 11.9 avg., 5 TDs...3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Mack, 3 for 33 yards, 11.0 avg., .36th
PUNTING—Horne, 79 punts, 40.9 avg., longest 66 yards...5th
PUNT RETURNS—Sikahema, 33 for 341 yards, 10.3 avg...4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Sikahema, 23 for 475 yards, 20.7 avg...8th
SACKS—Nunn, 14.0 sacks...4th

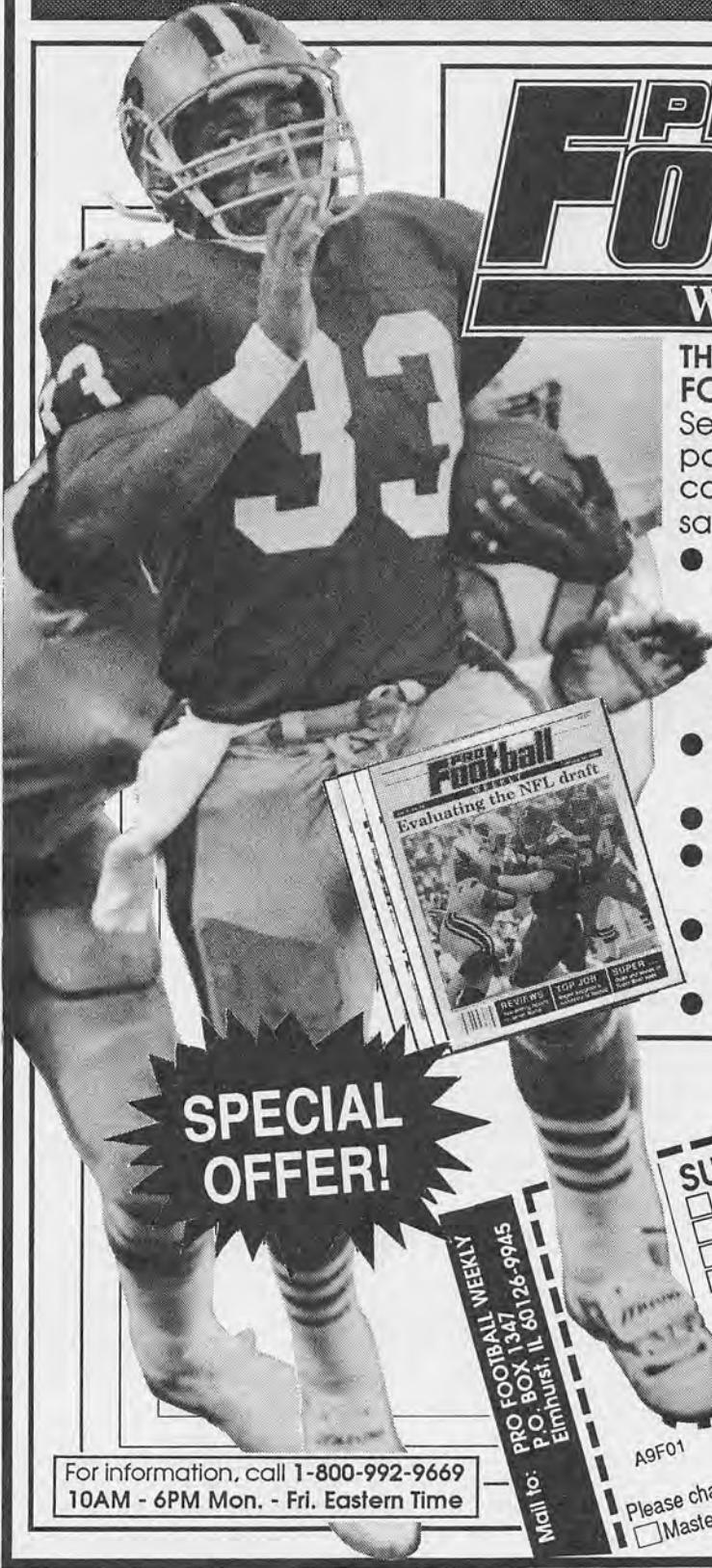
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	11	SEATTLE (N)
	21	At Los Angeles Rams (N)
	26	CLEVELAND (N)
September	1	At San Diego (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

September	10	at Detroit	—
	17	at Seattle	—
	24	at New York Giants	7-44
October	1	SAN DIEGO	—
	8	at Washington	17-33
	15	PHILADELPHIA	17-23
	22	ATLANTA	—
	29	at Dallas	16-10
November	5	NEW YORK GIANTS	24-17
	12	DALLAS	14-17
	19	at Los Angeles Rams	41-27
	26	TAMPA BAY	30-24
December	3	WASHINGTON	30-21
	10	at Los Angeles Raiders	—
	16	DENVER	—
	24	at Philadelphia	21-31

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When healthy, Lomax is still among the top 10 passers in the game. His rating last year of 86.7 was above his career average of 82. But he missed the first two games of the Cardinals' final skid with torn ligaments in his left knee. Before the injury, his rating was 95.3. After he returned, it dropped to 60.6. A chronic hip problem is also a concern, which prompted the addition of Hogeboom, a quarterback who was not considered the answer in either Dallas or Indianapolis.

For Kelly Stouffer, the quarterback the Cardinals drafted No. 1 in 1987 but couldn't sign, the Cards received three draft choices from Seattle. They used one last year for linebacker Chris Gaines, no longer on the team. The other two went this year for guard Joe Wolf and defensive end David Edeen.

Smith and Green were the big guns again, catching 12 touchdown passes between them. With age catching both, the Cardinals have moved former tight end Jay Novacek wide and plan to get more playing time out of second-year man Ernie Jones, a steal as a seventh-round draft choice last year. Jones caught 23 passes for a 21.6-yard average and three touchdowns. Tight end Robert Awalt is coming off his second good season and should get help from second-round draft choice Walter Reeves.

The Cardinals are looking for more help for Mitchell and Ferrell. Mitchell's yardage decreased for the fourth year in a row and his work load diminished significantly. Ferrell enjoyed his best season, 924 yards and seven touchdowns, but he has been treated for drug abuse. If young Tony Jordan or Tony Jeffery can't step forward, maybe unprotected pickup Lydell Carr will be able to lend a hand. Vai Sikahema and Ron Wolfley are Pro Bowl special teamers, but neither seems able to break into the regular backfield.

The drafting of guards Wolf in the first round and 300-pound Mike Zandofsky in the third indicate changes up front, where Todd Peat and Lance Smith started last year. Wolf is being penciled in for Peat. Derek Kennard is the center and Sharpe and Robbins remain one of the best tackle tandems in football when healthy. Scott Dill is a reserve tackle.

On defense, the Cardinals add linebacker after linebacker year after year in an effort to find three. This year's No. 1, LSU's Eric Hill, is slated to replace 1986's No. 1, Anthony Bell, on the left side. With 1981's No. 1, E.J. Junior, departed for Miami in the unprotected scramble, 1988's No. 1, Ken Harvey, is scheduled to start on the right side. Harvey was selected last year over running back John Stephens, who ended up as rookie of the year in New England. In the middle, the Cardinals would like to see Cincinnati's 1984 No. 1, Ricky Hunley, beat out Niko Noga. If he can't, former Raider Reggie McKenzie might. Or perhaps Hill. Or next year's No. 1. The problem at linebacker has reached a worldwide alert. This year's fifth-round choice, Richard Tardits, is a Frenchman who didn't know much about football until he enrolled at the University of Georgia. He is the Cardinals' answer to this year's international distress signal. Last year, Australian Colin Scotts was on the roster as a backup defensive lineman only to be plucked by Houston from the list of unprotected species.

The front four is adequate when healthy. Left end Freddie Joe Nunn had a season wor-

year they drafted both. Kendall Trainor will compete with Al Del Greco and Teddy Garcia for one job. Punter Chris Becker and newcomer Rich Camarillo were brought in to replace the unprotected Greg Horne, but the punter the Cardinals would love to win the job is second-year quarterback Tom Tupa, who once averaged 47 yards for Ohio State.

CARDINALS VETERAN ROSTER

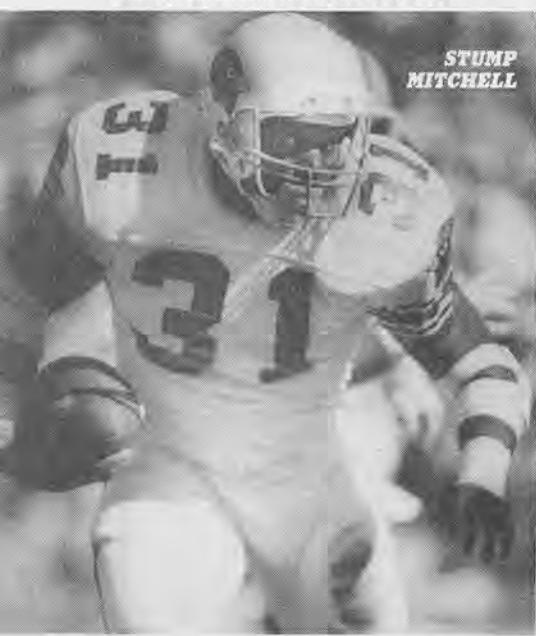
no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
60 Alvord, Steve	DT	6-4	272	25	Washington
80 Awalt, Robert	TE	6-5	248	25	San Diego St.
55 Bell, Anthony	LB	6-3	231	25	Michigan St.
71 Bostic, Joe	G	6-3	268	32	Clemson
44 Brim, Michael	CB	6-0	186	23	Virginia Union
62 Brown, Ray	OL	6-5	280	27	Arkansas St.
Camarillo, Rich	P	5-11	185	30	Washington
41 Carter, Carl	CB	5-11	180	25	Texas Tech
34 Clark, Jessie	FB	6-0	233	29	Arkansas
79 Clasby, Bob	DT	6-5	260	29	Notre Dame
53 Davis, Wayne	LB	6-1	213	25	Alabama
17 Del Greco, Al	K	5-10	191	27	Auburn
74 Dill, Scott	G	6-5	272	23	Memphis State
31 Ferrell, Earl	FB	6-4	240	31	E. Tenn. St.
65 Galloway, David	DE	6-3	279	30	Florida
81 Green, Roy	WR	6-0	195	32	Henderson St.
75 Greer, Curtis	DE	6-4	258	32	Michigan
56 Harvey, Ken	LB	6-2	225	24	California
83 Holmes, Don	WR	5-10	180	28	Mesa
Hogeboom, Gary	QB	6-4	208	31	Central Michigan
11 Home, Greg	P	6-0	188	25	Arkansas
51 Hunley, Ricky	LB	6-2	250	28	Anzona
28 Jeffery, Tony	RB	5-11	208	25	TCU
86 Jones, Ernie	WR	5-11	186	25	Indiana
59 Jones, Tyrone	LB	6-0	220	28	Southern
32 Jordan, Tony	RB	6-2	220	24	Kansas State
70 Kennard, Derek	OL	6-3	285	27	Nevada-Reno
26 Lyles, Lester	S	6-3	205	27	Virginia
15 Lomax, Neil	QB	6-3	215	30	Portland St.
47 Mack, Cedric	CB	6-0	194	29	Baylor
76 MacDonald, Mark	OL	6-4	265	28	Boston College
46 McDonald, Tim	DB	6-2	207	24	USC
95 McNamee, Sean	DE	6-5	270	28	San Diego St.
35 Mimbs, Robert	RB	5-10	197	26	Kansas
25 Mitchell, Roland	CB	5-11	180	25	Texas Tech
30 Mitchell, Stump	HB	5-9	188	30	The Citadel
68 Morris, Mike	G	6-5	275	28	NE Missouri St.
57 Noga, Niko	LB	6-1	235	27	Hawaii
85 Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	235	27	Wyoming
78 Nunn, Freddie Joe	DE	6-4	255	27	Mississippi
64 Peat, Todd	G	6-2	294	25	No. Illinois
48 Robbins, Reggie	CB	5-10	175	29	SMU
63 Robbins, Tootie	T	6-5	302	31	East Carolina
72 Saddler, Rod	DE	6-5	276	24	Texas A&M
87 Schillinger, Andy	WR	5-11	179	25	Miami (OH)
69 Scotts, Colin	DE	6-5	263	26	Hawaii
67 Sharpe, Luis	T	6-4	260	29	UCLA
36 Sikahema, Vai	RB	5-9	191	27	BYU
84 Smith, A.T.	WR	6-2	185	34	North Texas St.
61 Smith, Lance	OL	6-2	262	26	LSU
97 Spachman, Chris	DE	6-5	275	26	Nebraska
81 Stoudt, Cliff	QB	6-4	215	34	Youngstown St.
66 Traynor, Mark	G	6-5	280	27	Nebraska
19 Tupa, Tom	QB/P	6-4	220	23	Ohio State
89 Walczak, Mark	TE	6-6	246	27	Arizona
24 Wolfley, Ron	FB	6-0	222	27	West Virginia
43 Young, Lonnie	FS	6-1	182	26	Michigan St.

DRAFTEES

no. name	pos	ht	wt	college
1 Hill, Eric	LB	6-1	250	LSU
1 Wolf, Joe	G	6-6	284	Boston College
2 Reeves, Walter	TE	6-3	250	Auburn
3 Zandofsky, Mike	G	6-3	300	Washington
4 Wahler, Jim	DT	6-4	265	UCLA
5 Tardits, Richard	LB	6-1	200	Georgia
6 Edeen, David	DE	6-3	255	Wyoming
6 Taylor, Jay	DB	5-9	175	San Jose St.
7 Royal, Rickey	DB	5-9	185	Sam Houston St.
8 Burch, John	RB	5-11	200	Tenn-Martin
9 Trainor, Kendall	PK	6-2	205	Arkansas
10 Becker, Chris	P	6-2	192	TCU
11 Hunter, Jeffrey	DE	6-4	265	Albany SL (GA)
12 Nelson, Todd	G	6-5	290	Wisconsin

With Sikahema and Wolfley around, the Cardinals have good special teams regardless of who kicks. But if the Cardinals don't break that losing streak soon, Phoenix fans will be the ones doing most of the kicking.

The Cardinals always seem to be looking for new punters and place-kickers and this



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NFC East DALLAS COWBOYS

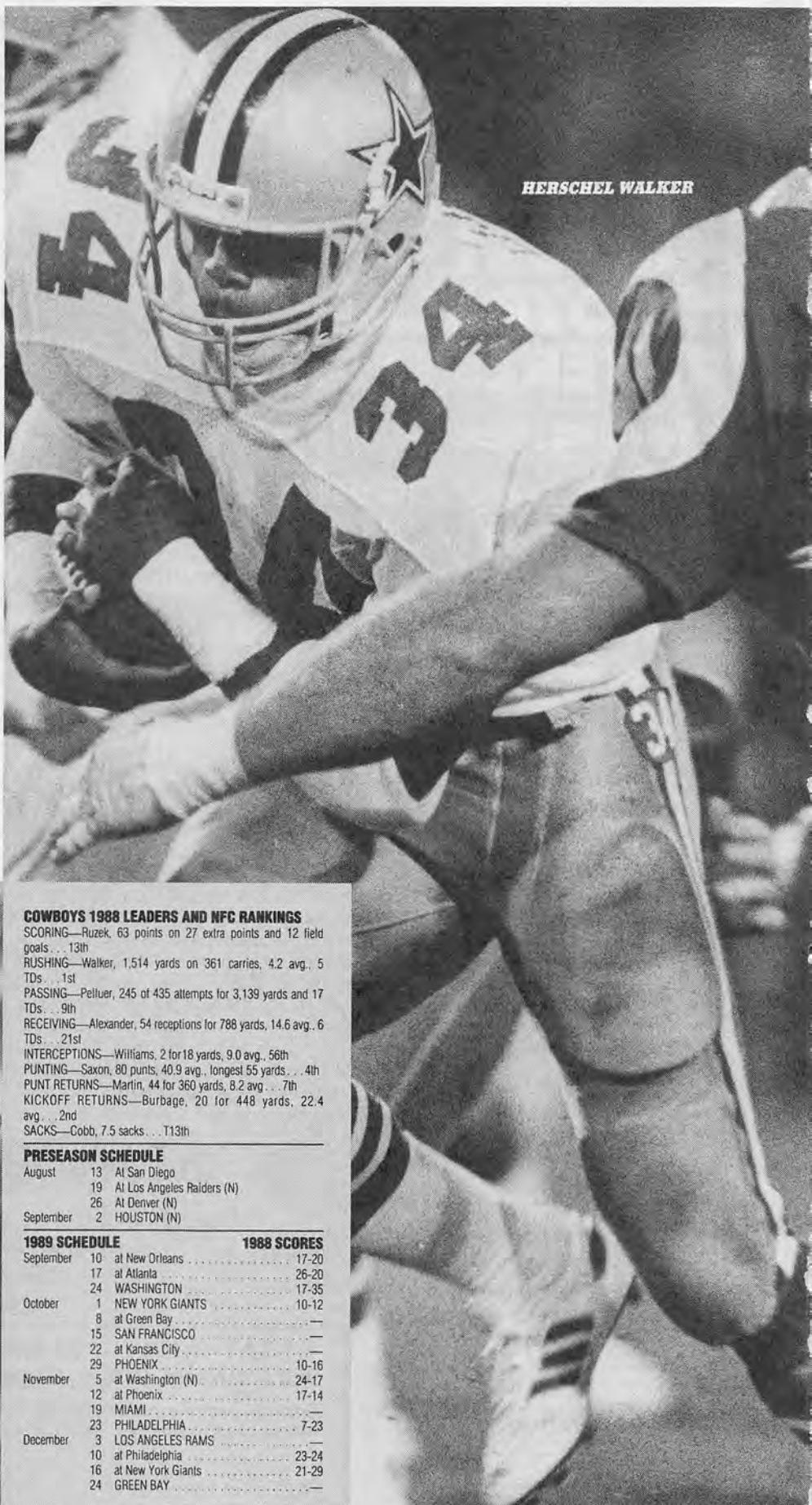
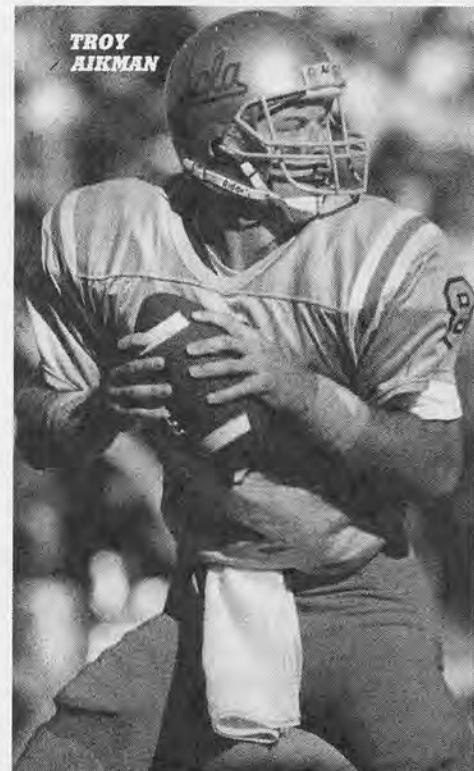
America's Team became Arkansas' Team when Jerry Jones bought the Dallas Cowboys and hired Jimmy Johnson to coach. The sooner it becomes Troy Aikman's team, the better. Quarterback Troy Aikman was the first draft choice of Jones and Johnson, former teammates on Arkansas' 1964 national champions. Aikman signed for more than \$11 million, and although that won't buy him much of the franchise, he is expected to inherit it pronto.

The problem with being the No. 1 pick and a quarterback is that both the frustration of the team and the pace of the young quarterback's development is under the constant pressure of scrutiny. Ask Vinny Testaverde, Steve Bartkowski, Jim Plunkett and Terry Bradshaw—all No. 1 quarterbacks who either had to wait for years or are still waiting to fulfill the promises others make.

If quarterback were the only problem the Cowboys have, there wouldn't be so many empty seats in Texas Stadium. And for fans who think the subtraction of coach Tom Landry and most of his staff, including the public relations director, will be the difference between 3-13 and 13-3, even the confident Johnson has news for them.

"I know it's going to be a very difficult job and I know we're going to have a lot of disappointment," Johnson said. "But I also know the commitment of the people in the organization. If you have people who are totally committed and willing to work night and day, you'll get the job done."

How difficult will it be? In the first five weeks of last season, the Cowboys lost three games by three points or less. They didn't look bad enough to lose 10 games in a row, which they did. They didn't wrap up the No. 1 choice until so late in the season that they may have failed to recognize how bad they were. "We're not going to get any better until we admit we're the worst team in the league," tight end Doug



COWBOYS 1988 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Ruzek, 63 points on 27 extra points and 12 field goals...13th
RUSHING—Walker, 1,514 yards on 361 carries, 4.2 avg., 5 TDs...1st
PASSING—Peltier, 245 of 435 attempts for 3,139 yards and 17 TDs...8th
RECEIVING—Alexander, 54 receptions for 788 yards, 14.6 avg., 6 TDs...21st
INTERCEPTIONS—Williams, 2 for 18 yards, 9.0 avg., 56th
PUNTING—Saxon, 80 punts, 40.9 avg., longest 55 yards...4th
PUNT RETURNS—Martin, 44 for 360 yards, 8.2 avg...7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Burbage, 20 for 448 yards, 22.4 avg...2nd
SACKS—Cobb, 7.5 sacks...T13th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	13	At San Diego	17-20
	19	At Los Angeles Raiders (N)	26-20
	26	At Denver (N)	17-35
September	2	HOUSTON (N)	

		1989 SCHEDULE	1988 SCORES
September	10	at New Orleans	17-20
	17	at Atlanta	26-20
	24	WASHINGTON	17-35
October	1	NEW YORK GIANTS	10-12
	8	at Green Bay	—
	15	SAN FRANCISCO	—
	22	at Kansas City	—
November	29	PHOENIX	10-16
	5	at Washington (N)	24-17
	12	at Phoenix	17-14
	19	MIAMI	—
December	23	PHILADELPHIA	7-23
	3	LOS ANGELES RAMS	7-23
	10	at Philadelphia	23-24
	16	at New York Giants	21-29
	24	GREEN BAY	—

Cosbie said before his Dallas career ended. "It's like the guy who has a drug or alcohol problem. When he's in denial, he'll never get better until he admits he has a problem."

Johnson saw three "big problems" he thinks coaching can correct: the two-minute offense, the turnover ratio, and penalties. The Cowboys had the ball 36 times with two minutes or less to play and scored only two touchdowns and two field goals. There was confusion in play-calling and in patterns. The Cowboys were minus 21 in the turnover ratio, second-worst in the league to Washington. In penalties, the Cowboys led the league with 141, up from 131 in 1987 and 111 in 1986, a sure sign of a sloppy, undisciplined team.

Aikman cannot possibly be expected to solve most or even any of these problems himself, although Steve Pelluer got blamed for plenty that went wrong. Pelluer's inconsistency doomed him. He had the talent to complete 56 percent of his passes for 3,139 yards and 17 touchdowns, but poor decisions in the clutch led to 19 interceptions and not enough big plays to convince the Cowboys he is their future. How fast Aikman develops could depend on how much of a look Johnson gives Scott Secules, a second-year prospect whose practices deserve a chance.

Fortunately for the Dallas quarterback, he always has Herschel Walker. Hand him the ball, throw him the ball, just make sure he gets it 26 times a game. Only Eric Dickerson handled the ball more times than Walker's 414 rushes and receptions last year, and Walker only lost three fumbles while piling up 2,019 yards. He is an offense unto himself and it shouldn't require a whole lot of additions to enhance the Dallas attack.

Second draft pick Daryl Johnston of Syracuse could have a quicker impact than Aikman. A solid, 235-pound blocker and inside runner, Johnston is the big back every team wants to complement its outside speed. Johnston will try to replace 10-year man Timmy Newsome. Dallas lost the unprotected Mark Higgs, so Darryl Clack and Todd Fowler represent the only depth at running back.

The return of last year's No. 1 draft choice, wide receiver Michael Irvin, to full strength will be a welcome sight for his old coach at Miami, who knows what a dangerous weapon he is. Irvin caught 32 passes for a 20.4-yard average and five touchdowns as a rookie, but an ankle injury hampered his effectiveness and humbled him in ways he doesn't want to repeat. Opposite Irvin, Ray Alexander quietly developed in his second season into the team's leading receiver, with 54 catches, one more than Walker. Kelvin Edwards and Kelvin Martin are capable reserves and Everett Gay has the speed to develop into a factor.

The unprotected Cosbie joined Denver and left the Cowboys without a proven pass receiver at tight end. Thornton Chandler is the starter, backed by Steve Folsom, and both will get help from fifth-round Keith Jennings.

On the line, the word is big. Guard Nate "The Kitchen" Newton is close to 340 and probably would be more effective minus a cupboard or two. But he and Crawford Ker played well. Tackles Dave Widell and Kevin Gogan also are 300-pounders who have trouble with speed rushers. Daryle Smith, Bob White, and 313-pound Jeff Zimmerman all are third-year backups who will be trying to move up the depth chart. Center is little (265-pound)

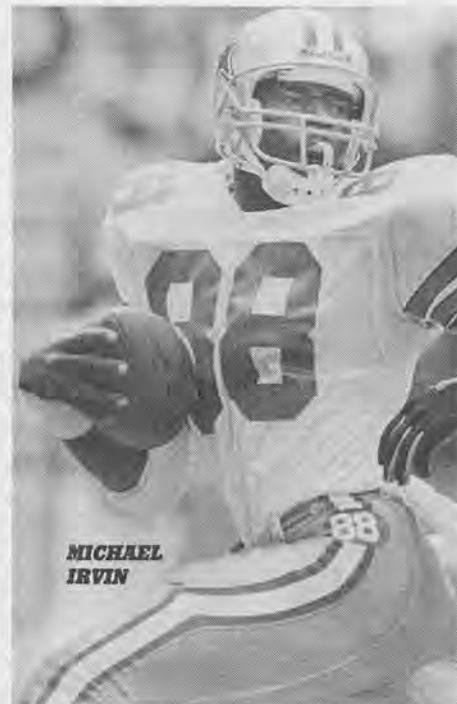
Tom Rafferty, who will be 35. In anticipation of some shuffling up front, Johnson made University of Pittsburgh guard Mark Stepnoski his third-round draft choice.

When 38-year-old Ed "Too Tall" Jones is your most valuable defensive player, the future seems beyond a mere quarterback's grasp. Jones had seven sacks, knocked down 14 passes, forced two fumbles and recovered two in another demonstration of his winning fight against age. Johnson's problem is not Jones; it's most of the other 10.

Drafting five linebackers provides a hint of where Johnson will start to look for help. One of them, 6-6 Tony Tolbert, probably will line up as a pass rusher. Landry's Flex is history and so is the great Randy White. Jim Jeffcoat, Kevin Brooks, and Danny Noonan will be joined by third-rounder Rhonda Weston and fifth-rounder Jeff Roth on the front. Weston could provide the flexibility to move Brooks outside. Castoff Garry Cobb was the club's best linebacker last year and is 32. Inside starter Eugene Lockhart, left linebacker Ron Burton, veteran Steve DeOssie, and last year's No. 2 draft pick, Ken Norton, will be joined by Willis Crockett, Kevin Peterson, Rod Carter, and Randy Shannon. Carter and Shannon played for Johnson in Miami last year.

Right cornerback Robert Williams developed into a first-rate player in his second year and veteran Everson Walls still is as good as they come at the toughest position, left cornerback. The Cowboys would like to find two new safeties to replace Bill Bates, who isn't fast enough to cover speed receivers, and Michael Downs, who was released. Vince Albritton will get a shot at one spot. Newcomer Ray Horton could help at either safety or as a backup corner. Ron Francis also could be moved from the corner. Manny Hendrix and Bill Owens are other possibilities.

When in doubt, punt. Mike Saxon did a good job of it last year. Place-kicker Roger Ruzek made only 12-of-22 field goals and Kelvin Martin and Clack were better than average return men.



COWBOYS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
36 Albritton, Vince	S	6-2	220	27	Washington
87 Alexander, Ray	WR	6-4	193	27	Florida A&M
62 Anglim, Patrick	G	6-4	260	24	Connecticut
32 Bain, Tolbert	S	6-1	205	25	Miami
82 Barksdale, Rod	WR	6-1	192	27	Arizona
40 Bales, Bill	S	6-1	200	28	Tennessee
21 Brewton, Larry	CB	5-10	180	23	Temple
99 Brooks, Kevin	DT	6-6	284	26	Michigan
27 Burbridge, Cornell	DB	5-10	189	24	Kentucky
57 Burton, Ron	LB	6-1	245	25	North Carolina
89 Chandler, Thornton	TE	6-5	240	26	Alabama
42 Clack, Darryl	RB	5-10	220	26	Arizona St.
22 Clark, Kevin	DB	5-10	185	25	San Jose St.
59 Cobb, Garry	LB	6-2	233	32	Southern Cal.
55 Coyle, Eric	C	6-3	260	26	Colorado
48 Dean, Kent	TE	6-4	234	25	Kansas St.
55 DeOssie, Steve	LB	6-2	246	27	Boston College
26 Downs, Michael	S	6-3	215	30	Rice
44 Dykes, Sean	CB	5-9	178	25	Bowling Green
81 Edwards, Kelvin	WR	6-2	204	25	Liberty
85 Folsom, Steve	TE	6-5	241	31	Utah
46 Fowler, Todd	FB	6-3	226	27	Stephen F. Austin
38 Francis, Ron	CB	5-9	201	25	Baylor
80 Gay, Everett	WR	6-2	209	25	Texas
66 Gogan, Kevin	T	6-7	306	25	Washington
45 Hendrix, Manny	CB	5-10	181	25	Utah
74 Hooven, Owen	T	6-8	303	23	Oregon St.
20 Horton, Ray	DB	5-11	190	29	Washington
52 Hurd, Jeff	LB	6-2	245	25	Kansas St.
75 Hulston, Mark	G	6-3	289	23	Oklahoma
88 Irvin, Michael	WR	6-2	202	23	Miami
48 Jackson, Troy	LB	6-1	215	25	Indiana (Pa.)
49 James, Arnie	TE	6-4	251	25	Delta St.
27 James, Jeff	WR	5-10	187	24	Stanford
77 Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6-5	262	28	Arizona St.
90 Jones, Anthony	TE	6-3	248	29	Wichita St.
72 Jones, Ed	DE	6-9	278	38	Tennessee St.
68 Ker, Crawford	G	6-3	290	27	Florida
56 Lockhart, Eugene	LB	6-2	235	28	Houston
67 Marrone, Doug	OL	6-5	295	25	Syracuse
83 Martin, Kelvin	WR	5-9	163	24	Boston College
20 Miller, Solomon	WR	6-3	176	25	Utah State
73 Moss, Zelros	T	6-6	310	23	Alabama State
58 Naposki, Eric	LB	6-2	230	23	Connecticut
30 Newsome, Timmy	FB	6-1	236	31	Winston-Salem
61 Newton, Nale	G	6-3	314	28	Florida A&M
73 Noonan, Danny	DT	6-4	266	24	Nebraska
51 Norton, Ken	LB	6-2	236	23	UCLA
31 Owens, Billy	S	6-1	207	24	Pittsburgh
22 Patterson, Melvin	WR	6-2	190	24	Stephen F. Austin
16 Peiluer, Steve	QB	6-4	212	27	Washington
60 Petersmark, Brett	OL	6-4	275	25	Eastern Michigan
64 Ralfferty, Tom	C	6-3	264	35	Penn State
50 Rohrer, Jeff	LB	6-2	222	31	Yale
9 Ruzek, Roger	K	6-1	195	29	Weber State
39 Sargent, Broderick	FB	5-11	215	27	Baylor
4 Saxon, Mike	P	6-3	198	27	San Diego St.
67 Scheller, Sean	DE	6-5	250	24	Stanford
10 Secules, Scott	QB	6-3	219	25	Virginia
72 Sigler, Ricky	T	6-6	295	23	San Jose St.
93 Sileo, Dan	DT	6-2	291	25	Miami
31 Sims, Freddie	RB	5-10	213	26	Okahoma
79 Smith, Daryle	T	6-5	276	25	Tennessee
32 Smith, David	RB	6-2	230	24	Western Kentucky
25 Tautalasi, Junior	RB	5-11	208	26	Washington St.
63 Titensor, Glen	G	6-4	270	31	Brigham Young
71 Tuinei, Mark	T	6-5	282	29	Hawaii
95 Waled, Mark	DL	6-5	267	26	UCLA
34 Walker, Herschel	RB	6-1	226	27	Georgia
24 Walls, Everson	CB	6-1	193	30	Grambling
65 White, Bob	C	6-5	273	26	Rhode Island
11 White, Danny	QB	6-3	200	37	Arizona St.
78 Widell, Dave	T	6-6	300	24	Boston College
23 Williams, Robert	CB	5-10	186	27	Baylor
76 Zimmerman, Jeff	G	6-3	313	24	Florida

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Aikman, Troy	QB	6-4	220	UCLA
2	Johnston, Daryl	RB	6-1	235	Syracuse
3	Stepnoski, Mark	OG	6-2	270	Pittsburgh
3	Weston, Rhonda	DE	6-4	275	Florida
4	Tolbert, Tony	LB	6-6	230	Texas-El Paso
5	Jennings, Keith	TE	6-3	235	Clemson
5	Crockett, Willis	LB	6-2	225	Georgia Tech
5	Roth, Jeff	DT	6-3	265	Florida
7	Peterson, Kevin	LB	6-2	227	Northwestern
8	Foger, Chavez	RB	5-10	204	Nevada-Reno
9	Jackson, Tim	DB	5-11	190	Nebraska
10	Carter, Rod	LB	6-1	231	Miami
11	Shannon, Randy	LB	6-0	224	Miami
12	Ankrum, Scott	WR	6-1	188	TCU

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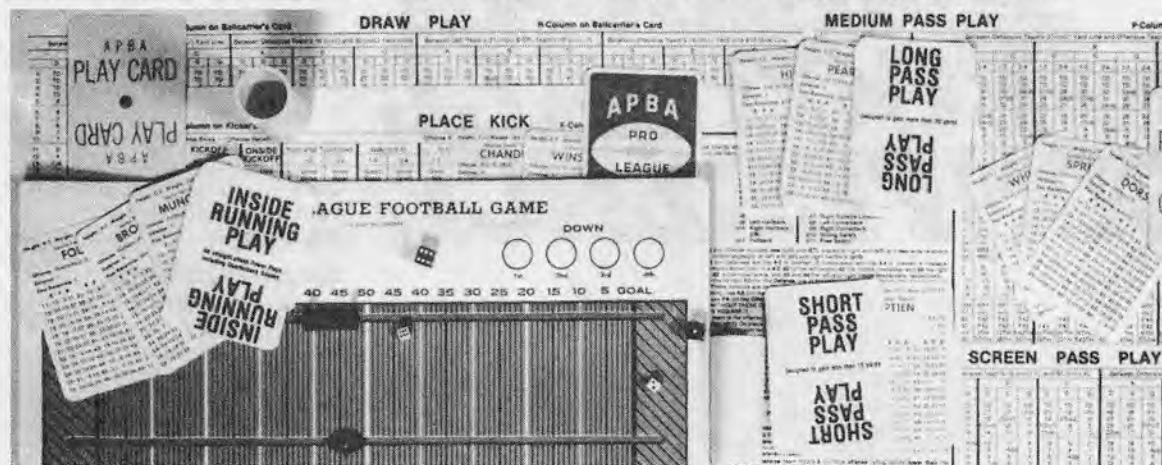
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The American Football Conference is in the midst of a transition, from old money to the newly rich. In the Central Division the shift went from Pittsburgh and Cleveland to Cincinnati and Houston; in the East from Miami to Buffalo and Indianapolis; in the West from Denver and the Los Angeles Raiders to ... who knows?

It is likely to stay that way for a while. Buffalo and Indianapolis should duel for the Eastern Division title again, with New England in a spoilers' role until it can stabilize its quarterback situation. Cincinnati seems the most constant of the defending division champions, yet the Bengals have the most formidable pursuer, Houston. The West? Kansas City, with a realigned organization in command of underrated talent, should rise from the ashes in the NFL's most mediocre division.

by LARRY FELSER

BUFFALO NEWS

Michigan State, and considered changing its offense to accommodate both Eric Dickerson and his talented backup, Albert Bentley. Buffalo gave control of its entire offense to assistant coach Ted Marchibroda; hired a new offensive line coach, Tom Bresnahan, who prefers size to the Bills' customary finesse; and matched Denver's rich offer sheet to superstar defensive end Bruce Smith, who had become a free agent. New England changed quarterback coaches, drafted a sparkling wide receiver in Hart Lee Dykes of Oklahoma State, and went into the free-agent auction for veteran pass rusher Gary Jeter.

In the West, the championship may be decided by one factor: which defense stops the run most effectively. None did it very well last season. Kansas City was last in the NFL against the run and Denver next to last. Seattle finished 24th, the Raiders 23rd, and San Diego 22nd. The Chiefs did the most to improve their rushing defense, drafting Alabama's excellent linebacker, Derrick Thomas, and signing a half dozen linebackers and linemen in the free-agent pool. Bill Maas, a Pro Bowl nose tackle, also returns after spending the second half of last season on the injured list. The Raiders spent heavily on free agents, including such defensive veterans as Cleveland nose tackle Bob Golic, cornerback Mike Richardson of Chicago, and five linebackers: Otis Wilson of Chicago, Emanuel King of Cincinnati, Jackie Shipp of Miami, Joe Costello of Atlanta, and Thomas Benson of New England.

COACHING CHANGES

There were three head-coaching changes in the AFC. Kansas City dropped Frank Gansz and hired Marty Schottenheimer. After Schottenheimer abruptly resigned in Cleveland, the Browns hired veteran defensive coach Bud Carson from the New York Jets. San Diego fired Al Saunders and hired Dan Henning, once Atlanta's head coach.

There was even more upheaval among AFC assistant coaches. Dan Reeves of Denver canned Joe Collier after 20 years as the Broncos' defensive coordinator and replaced him with Wade Phillips. Chuck Noll radically altered his defensive staff, hiring veteran Rod Rust to replace Tony Dungy as coordinator. Meyer fired both of his coordinators, then hired Larry Kennan of Denver for the offense and appointed himself defensive boss. When June Jones left Houston to rejoin his old USFL mentor, Mouse Davis, in Detroit, Jerry Glanville hired East Carolina offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride. When Carson left the Jets to take the Browns' head job, Joe Walton replaced him as defensive coordinator with Ralph Hawkins of Seattle. Dan Radakovich, the Jets' offensive line coach, was miffed that he didn't get Carson's old job, so he rejoined Carson in Cleveland, where he was made defensive head. Steve Moore quit as offensive coordinator in Seattle and John Becker, fired as offensive boss in Indianapolis, was hired as his replacement. Buffalo promoted Marchibroda and hired Bresnahan. New England fired Les Steckel as quarterback coach and hired Richard Wood.

The most painful exchange may have occurred in Miami, where David Shula resigned as assistant head coach and offensive coordinator to join Jimmy Johnson's new staff in Dallas. By most accounts, the younger Shula is an excellent coach, but the fact that his dad,

PREDICTIONS

EAST

1. Buffalo Bills
2. Indianapolis Colts
3. New England Patriots
4. Miami Dolphins
5. New York Jets

CENTRAL

1. Cincinnati Bengals
2. Houston Oilers
3. Pittsburgh Steelers
4. Cleveland Browns

WEST

1. Kansas City Chiefs
2. Seattle Seahawks
3. Los Angeles Raiders
4. Denver Broncos
5. San Diego Chargers

Wild Card Teams—Indianapolis Colts, Houston Oilers
AFC Champion—Cincinnati Bengals

DIVISIONAL RACES

The Central Division race could be decided by how well the Oilers play on the road and by the quality of Cincinnati's finishing kick. Houston, nearly invincible in the Astrodome, won only three road games during the regular season. Its 1989 schedule lists four road games in the first six dates. Cinci closes with five consecutive games against playoff teams: at Buffalo, at Cleveland, Seattle, Houston, and Minnesota in the final Monday night game.

The Eastern title may be a matter of which teams geared up the best during the off-season. Indianapolis fired its offensive and defensive coordinators, got lucky in the draft and ended up with prize receiver Andre Rison of



Don, is the Dolphins' head coach led to enormous backbiting in the last few years. To replace David, the Dolphins promoted long-time line coach John Sandusky to assistant head coach and hired Gary Stephens, the highly regarded offensive strategist at the University of Miami, to be quarterback coach and offensive coordinator.

Sometimes just changing coaches is not enough. There are three new general managers in the AFC. Long-time personnel boss Mike Holovak, thought to be approaching retirement, was promoted by the Oilers after Ladd Herzog resigned following a series of non-football controversies. Ken Behring, the new Seattle owner, fired Mike McCormack and hired former Raider coach Tom Flores as GM. Lamar Hunt hired Carl Peterson, whose reputation was made in the USFL, to run the Kansas City organization. There is no general manager in Pittsburgh, but Tom Donahoe, the new director of pro personnel and development, now has a lot to say about trades and other players deals.

FREE-AGENT SIGNINGS

Kansas City, Cleveland, San Diego, Denver, and the Raiders were the most active teams in the free-agent signings. K.C. signed 17, including Mike Webster, originally hired as offensive line coach. The Steelers' all-time star will try to play again. Cleveland's 14 signees

include offensive linemen Ted Bunker of the Jets and Tom Baugh of Kansas City as well as Indy linebacker Barry Krauss. Among San Diego's 11 free agents are Raider place-kicker Chris Bahr and Washington's Super Bowl star, running back Tim Smith. The Raiders signed Cleveland place-kicker Jeff Jaeger as well as the aforementioned defensive possibilities. Denver's 11 included Green Bay pass rusher Alfonso Carreker and New Orleans tackle Bill Contz.

Another sort of free agency was tried in the AFC. The targets were superstar defensive ends Bruce Smith of Buffalo and Ray Childress of Houston. Denver signed Smith to a rich offer sheet and the Chicago Bears did the same with Childress. The Bills and Oilers matched the offers, thereby keeping the two.

There are no franchise rookies coming into the AFC, but there are a few who could make an immediate impact: Georgia running back Tim Worley (Pittsburgh), Michigan State wide receiver Andre Rison (Indianapolis), Oklahoma State wide receiver Hart Lee Dykes (New England), and running back Eric Metcalf of Texas and tight end Lawyer Tillman of Auburn (Cleveland).

Some of the individual honors for 1989 may go this way:

- **Rushing:** Eric Dickerson, Indianapolis
- **Passing:** Dan Marino, Miami
- **Receiving:** Al Toon, New York
- **Most Valuable Player, Offense:** John Williams, Seattle
- **Most Valuable Player, Defense:** Cornelius Bennett, Buffalo
- **Offensive Rookie of the Year:** Tim Worley, Pittsburgh
- **Defensive Rookie of the Year:** Louis Oliver, Miami
- **Coach of the Year:** Marty Schottenheimer, Kansas City

1989 ALL-AFC TEAM

OFFENSE

WR Mark Duper, Miami; Eddie Brown, Cincinnati

TE Mickey Shuler, New York

T Anthony Munoz, Cincinnati;

Bruce Armstrong, New England

G Brian Millard, Seattle; Mike Munchak, Houston

C Kent Hull, Buffalo

QB Warren Moon, Houston

RB Eric Dickerson, Indianapolis;

John Williams, Seattle

PK Gary Anderson, Pittsburgh

DEFENSE

E Lee Williams, San Diego; Bruce Smith, Buffalo

OLB Cornelius Bennett, Buffalo;

Andre Tippett, New England

NT Bill Maas, Kansas City

ILB Shane Conlan, Buffalo; John Offerdahl, Miami

CB Hanford Dixon, Cleveland;

Albert Lewis, Kansas City

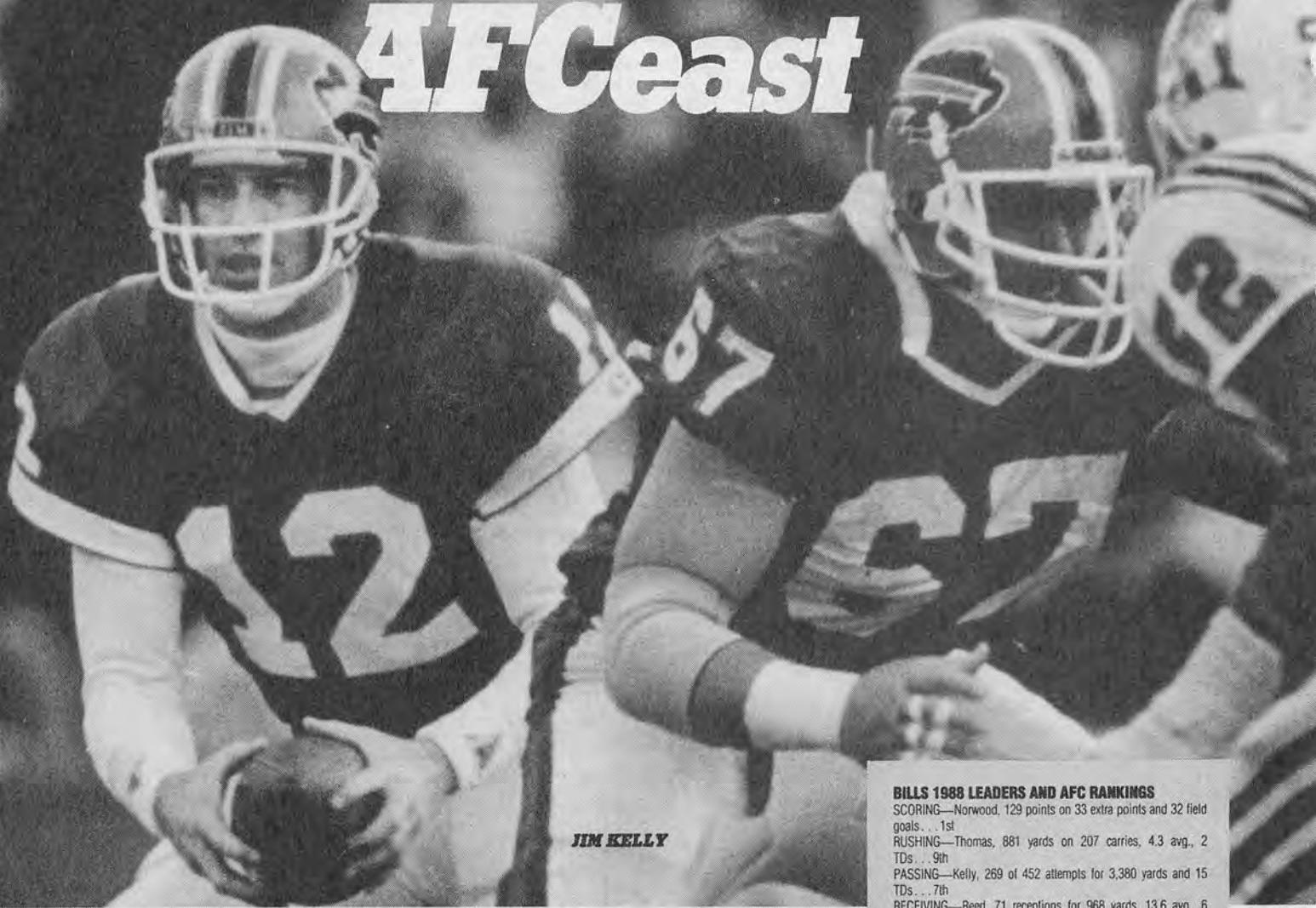
FS Mark Kelso, Buffalo

SS David Fulcher, Cincinnati

P Jeff Gossell, Los Angeles



AFC East



JIM KELLY

BUFFALO BILLS

The Buffalo franchise has a history of burning brightly for brief periods, then retreating to a four- or five-year hibernation. If the proper offensive adjustments have been made, these Bills could be different. They made the NFL's Final Four a year ago, but their failure to advance to the Super Bowl was predictable. They need to improve on offense. Of the 10 playoff teams, only Cleveland and Chicago, which spent stretches playing with damaged or emergency quarterbacks, scored fewer points than Buffalo.

Jim Kelly is the most vital Bill, but he didn't finish among the league's top 10 passers a year ago, even though his 3,380 yards ranked behind only Boomer Esiason of Cincinnati and Dan Marino of Miami in the AFC. Kelly's 15 touchdown passes were 13 fewer than the figure reached by Esiason and Marino. Kelly also had a poor day in the AFC title loss to the Bengals. A major portion of the problem may have been Buffalo's conservative offensive design, plus a line that was better equipped to function in the late 1960s than it was to enter the football of the '90s. There may be a change in the design of the attack and in the play-calling now that Ted Marchibroda has replaced the retired Jim Ringo as offensive coordinator. Marchibroda himself, however, has a reputation as a conservative strategist. The fans—and Kelly himself—are looking for something dramatically different. The big

quarterback seldom gets to throw the ball downfield any more. There were three offensive gains of more than 50 yards last year, but two were in the same game, a one-sided Monday-night victory over the Jets.

Physically, the Bills have been playing with a smallish line that depends a great deal on finesse. Coach Marv Levy hired Tom Bresnahan from Phoenix to re-establish the line. Bresnahan could start over with two free-agent signees, John Davis of Houston and Ceasar Rentie of Chicago, along with second-year pro Howard Ballard, all of whom weigh close to 300 pounds. Center Kent Hull made the Pro Bowl last year and Will Wolford, despite a nightmare game against Jason Buck in the AFC championship, is considered the coming star. The idea is to give Kelly better protection (30 sacks in 1988) as well as to move people off the line of scrimmage inside the 20-yard line.

General manager Bill Polian went the free-agent route to help correct that deficiency, too, signing monstrous fullback Larry Kinnebrew, whose weight problem led Cinci to drop him, and Kenneth Davis, who became the odd man out in Green Bay. The Bills already have Thurman Thomas, who gained 881 yards with a 4.3 per-carry average as a rookie. But Thomas fumbled nine times, more than any other ball carrier in the NFL. Robb Riddick is 32, but he did score 14 touchdowns last year, 12 of them on goal-line running.

BILLS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Norwood, 129 points on 33 extra points and 32 field goals...1st
RUSHING—Thomas, 881 yards on 207 carries, 4.3 avg., 2 TDs...9th
PASSING—Kelly, 269 of 452 attempts for 3,380 yards and 15 TDs...7th
RECEIVING—Reed, 71 receptions for 968 yards, 13.6 avg., 6 TDs...4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Keiso, 7 for 180 yards, 25.7 avg., 1 TD...2nd
PUNTING—Kidd, 62 punts, 39.5 avg., longest 60 yards...10th
PUNT RETURNS—Johnson, 16 for 72 yards, 4.5 avg., unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Tucker, 15 for 310 yards, 20.7 avg., unranked
SACKS—Smith, 11.0 sacks...T2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	Washington at Canton, OH	31-6
13	At Cincinnati (N)		
19	NEW ORLEANS (N)		
26	Green Bay at Madison, WI		
September	1	Atlanta at Jacksonville, FL (N)	

1989 SCHEDULE	1988 SCORES
September 10 at Miami	31-6
18 DENVER (N)	—
24 at Houston	—
October 1 NEW ENGLAND	23-20
8 at Indianapolis	14-17
16 LOS ANGELES RAMS (N)	—
22 NEW YORK JETS	OT 9-6
29 MIAMI	9-6
November 5 at Atlanta	—
12 INDIANAPOLIS	34-23
19 at New England	16-14
26 CINCINNATI	—
December 4 at Seattle (N)	13-3
10 NEW ORLEANS	—
17 at San Francisco	—
23 at New York Jets	37-14

To put some excitement into the passing game, the Bills drafted speedy wide receiver Don Beebe from tiny Chadron State. They'll also keep trying to develop another small-college sprinter, Bernard Ford, who was a high draft pick last year. Kelly already has possession receivers. Andre Reed caught 71 passes

and went to the Pro Bowl. The two third-down backs, Riddick and Ronnie Harmon, caught 67 passes between them. Kelly himself has to demonstrate that he can step up to another plateau as an NFL quarterback, to the level of Esiason and Marino.

Meanwhile, the Bills' hole card is defense. Only the Bears allowed fewer points in the NFL. Buffalo led the AFC in sacks with 46, a team record, while finishing fourth in the league in pass defense. Four defenders—end Bruce Smith, nose tackle Fred Smerlas, and linebackers Cornelius Bennett and Shane Conlan—were picked for the Pro Bowl. Two others, end Art Still and strong safety Leonard Smith, have been there in recent years. Buffalo

had to match a huge offer sheet from Denver to keep Bruce Smith, but the cat-quick pass rusher makes the defense go. He was second in the AFC with 11 sacks. Bennett had 9½ and Still six. The Bills also get the big push from inside. Smerlas had four sacks and rookie nose tackle Jeff Wright had five.

Conlan and Leonard Smith are the keys to stopping the run. With Conlan and Bruce Smith injured, Ickey Woods's rushing turned the title game around for the Bengals. Conlan teams with either Scott Radecic or Ray Bentley inside, but now Carlton Bailey, a converted college nose tackle, is expected to make a major bid for work. Bennett's partner on the outside is the dependable Darryl Talley.

The secondary should be more effective this season as cornerback Nate Odomes and free safety Mark Kelso, one of the best in the AFC, begin their third terms as starters. Leonard Smith, who came from Phoenix in a trade a month into the season, should be more effective as he grows more familiar with his colleagues, and fifth-year corner Derrick Burroughs is a stubborn cover man. Pass coverage may be the most vital skill in the AFC East now that the top two receivers in the draft, Hart Lee Dykes of Oklahoma State and Andre Rison of Michigan State, are in the division. Dykes will team with Stanley Morgan and Irving Fryar in New England and Rison with the

troublesome Billy Brooks in Indianapolis. Miami and the Jets were strong enough passing teams to begin with.

Few teams put as much premium on special teams as Levy. Place-kicker Scott Norwood led the NFL with 129 points, including 32 field goals in 37 tries. Punter John Kidd's numbers may not seem out of the ordinary (39.5-yard average and 13 kicks within the 20), but he is one of the league's better bad-weather kickers. The Bills led the league in kickoff coverage and did well covering punts. They are in the market for a kick returner. Rookie John Kolesar of Michigan may be the man. The word is that he has some Steve Largent qualities as a receiver, too.



THURMAN THOMAS



FRED SMERLAS



CORNELIUS BENNETT



ROBB RIDDICK

BILLS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
54	Bailey, Carlton	LB	6-2	240	25	North Carolina
75	Ballard, Howard	T	6-6	300	26	Alabama A&M
55	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	235	23	Alabama
50	Bentley, Ray	LB	6-2	235	29	Central Michigan
81	Broughton, Walter	WR	5-10	180	27	Jacksonville SL
77	Brown, Tony	T	6-5	285	25	Pittsburgh
85	Burkett, Chris	WR	6-4	210	27	Jackson State
29	Burroughs, Derrick	CB	6-1	180	27	Memphis State
61	Burton, Leonard	T	6-3	275	25	South Carolina
35	Burns, Carl	FB	6-0	235	26	Miss. Valley St.
20	Cocroft, Sherman	S	6-1	190	28	San Jose St.
58	Conlan, Shane	LB	6-3	235	25	Penn State
21	Davis, Wayne	CB	5-11	180	26	Indiana State
70	Devlin, Joe	T	6-5	280	35	Iowa
45	Diane, Dwight	S	6-2	205	27	Oklahoma
53	Erlandson, Tom	LB	6-1	220	23	Washington
99	Garner, Hal	LB	6-4	235	27	Utah St.
8	Gelbaugh, Stan	QB	6-3	207	27	Maryland
49	Hagy, John	S	5-11	190	24	Texas
33	Harmon, Ronnie	RB	5-11	200	25	Iowa
71	Hellestra, Dale	G	6-5	280	27	SMU
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-4	275	28	Mississippi St.
47	Jackson, Kirby	CB	5-10	180	24	Mississippi St.
80	Johnson, Flip	WR	5-10	185	26	McNeese St.
86	Johnson, Trumaine	WR	6-1	196	29	Grambling
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	218	29	Miami
38	Kelso, Mark	S	5-11	185	26	William & Mary
4	Kidd, John	P	6-3	208	28	Northwestern
23	Mayhew, Martin	CB	5-8	172	24	Florida St.
84	McKeller, Keith	TE	6-6	245	25	Jacksonville St.
74	Mesner, Bruce	NT	6-5	280	25	Maryland
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	250	29	Wabash
39	Mueller, Jamie	FB	6-1	225	25	Benedictine
57	Murray, Dan	LB	6-1	240	23	East Stroudsburg
11	Nowood, Scott	K	6-0	207	29	James Madison
37	Odomes, Nate	CB	5-10	188	24	Wisconsin
94	Pike, Mark	DE	6-4	272	26	Georgia Tech
97	Radecic, Scott	LB	6-3	242	27	Penn State
33	Reed, Andre	WR	6-0	190	25	Kutztown
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6-4	210	28	Maryland
40	Riddick, Robb	RB	6-0	195	32	Millersville St.
98	Ridge, Elston	DE	6-6	270	26	Nevada-Reno
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	265	31	N.C. State
7	Roach, Kirk	K	6-1	217	23	W. Carolina
87	Roller, Don	TE	6-3	242	25	Michigan State
96	Seals, Leon	DE	6-4	265	25	Jackson State
76	Smerlas, Fred	NT	6-3	280	32	Boston College
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	285	26	Virginia Tech
46	Smith, Leonard	S	5-11	202	29	McNeese St.
72	Still, Art	DE	6-7	255	34	Kentucky
55	Talley, Darryl	LB	6-4	235	29	West Virginia
89	Taylor, Steve	WR	5-9	185	27	Northwestern
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB	5-10	198	23	Oklahoma St.
22	Tucker, Errol	DB	5-8	170	25	Utah
65	Vogler, Tim	G	6-3	285	33	Ohio St.
73	Wolford, Will	T	6-5	280	25	Vanderbilt
43	Wright, Bo	RB	5-10	210	24	Alabama
91	Wright, Jeff	NT	6-2	270	26	Cent. Missouri St.

DRAFTEES

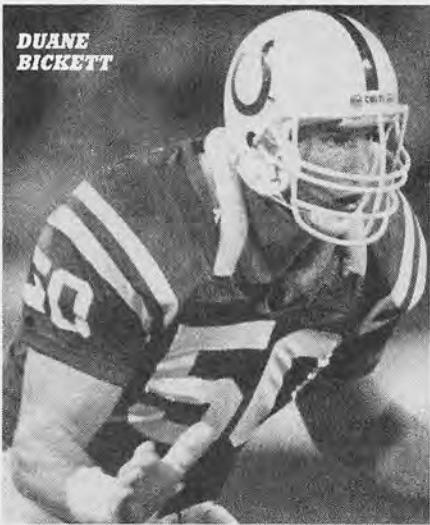
rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
3	Beebe, Don	WR	5-10	175	Chadron St.
4	Kolesar, John	WR	5-11	188	Michigan
5	Andrews, Michael	CB	5-11	177	Alcorn St.
6	Doctor, Sean	RB	6-2	237	Marshall
7	Jordan, Brian	DB	5-11	203	Richmond
7	Hale, Chris	DB	5-7	160	Southern Cal
9	Rabold, Pat	DT	6-2	265	Wyoming
10	Cheaton, Carlo	DB	5-11	190	Auburn
11	Haney, Richard	LB	6-2	227	Tulane
12	Marshall, Derrell	OT	6-4	305	Southern Cal

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Oh, what a happy day it seemed to be! The Colts, trailing Buffalo, 14-3, late in the third quarter, rallied to beat the Bills, 17-14. The playoffs were in their grasp if Houston could just hang on to defeat Cleveland.

The Oilers didn't hang on. Indy didn't make the playoffs. And the man who rallied the Colts to the brink of the playoffs, quarterback Gary Hogeboom, is now a Phoenix Cardinal. In view of those developments, where do the Colts go from here? If Chris Chandler keeps developing as a starting quarterback, if the changes in the coaching staff made by Ron Meyer work out, if the Colts don't start as sluggishly as they did in 1988 (1-5), and if Eric Dickerson stays intact, the answer seems obvious: right back to fighting with Buffalo for the division championship.

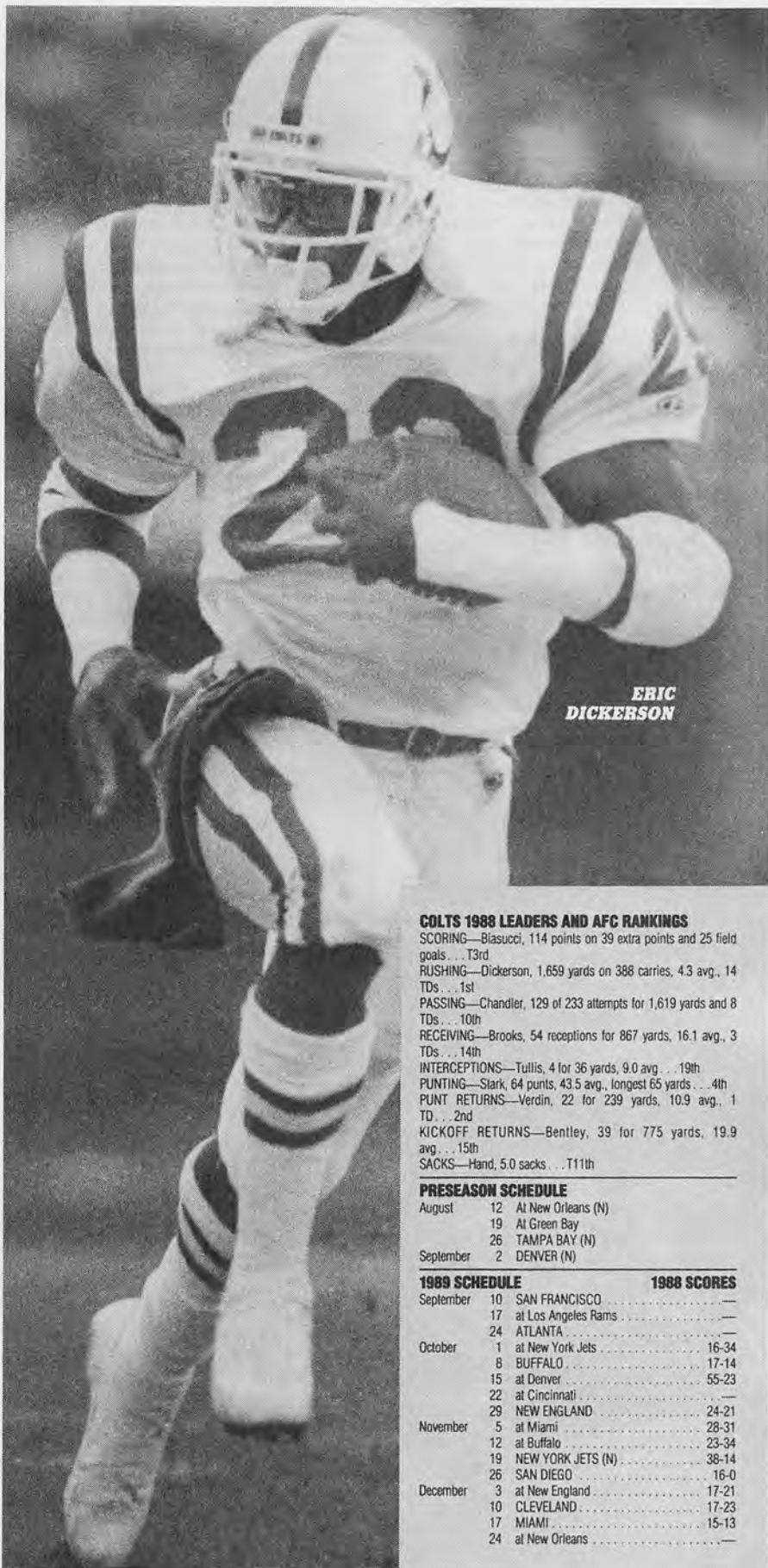
Meyer was a Hogeboom man, but the owner, Tiger Irsay, wasn't, which explains why Hoggie ended up on the team's unprotected list last winter. Chandler had a 9-4 record as the Colt starter, but a lot of that was in a caretaker position in an attack that was dominated by the running of Dickerson, who gained 1,659



yards and had eight 100-yard games. Dickerson handled the ball on 424 of Indy's 982 plays from scrimmage.

Chandler's basic numbers weren't bad. He completed 55.4 percent of his passes for 1,619 yards and eight touchdowns. But his quarterback rating was a mere 67.2. He needs a lot of polishing. If Meyer finds that Chandler isn't ready to carry the starting load from the beginning, there is always Jack Trudeau, who was the quarterback in five Colt victories in 1987, when they won the division title. Trudeau suffered a knee injury in the third game last year and missed the remainder of the season following reconstructive surgery.

Whoever plays quarterback will have an important new collaborator in the passing game. Through unexpected luck, Michigan State's Andre Rison, considered the best wide receiver in the draft, lasted until the 22nd pick in the first round, where Indianapolis gratefully pounced on him. Rison will team with Billy Brooks to put a fair amount of balance in the Colt attack, assuming there is stable quarterbacking. Brooks caught 54 passes for a 16.1-yard average. When Meyer wants to use flood-passing formations, he can insert the

**COLTS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS**

SCORING—Blasucci, 114 points on 39 extra points and 25 field goals...T3rd
RUSHING—Dickerson, 1,659 yards on 388 carries, 4.3 avg., 14 TDs...1st
PASSING—Chandler, 129 of 233 attempts for 1,619 yards and 8 TDs...10th
RECEIVING—Brooks, 54 receptions for 867 yards, 16.1 avg., 3 TDs...14th
INTERCEPTIONS—Tullis, 4 for 36 yards, 9.0 avg., 19th
PUNTING—Slark, 64 punts, 43.5 avg., longest 65 yards...4th
PUNT RETURNS—Verdin, 22 for 239 yards, 10.9 avg., 1 TD...2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bentley, 39 for 775 yards, 19.9 avg., 15th
SACKS—Hand, 5.0 sacks...T11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	At New Orleans (N)
	19	At Green Bay
	26	TAMPA BAY (N)
September	2	DENVER (N)

1989 SCHEDULE		1988 SCORES
September	10	SAN FRANCISCO
	17	at Los Angeles Rams
	24	ATLANTA
October	1	at New York Jets
	8	BUFFALO
	15	at Denver
	22	at Cincinnati
	29	NEW ENGLAND
November	5	at Miami
	12	at Buffalo
	19	NEW YORK JETS (N)
	26	SAN DIEGO
December	3	at New England
	10	CLEVELAND
	17	MIAMI
	24	at New Orleans

swift Clarence Verdin, who averaged 21.9 yards on his 20 catches, four of which went for touchdowns, along with a new waterbug receiver, Clarence Weather, signed as a free agent off Cleveland's list.

Meyer tore apart his coaching staff after last season. New are offensive coordinator Larry Kennan, who comes from the Denver Broncos; offensive line coach Dante Scarnecchia, from New England; and receivers coach Milt Jackson, from Houston. Kennan and Scarnecchia, along with two other new coaches, Bill Muir for the defensive line and Brad Seely for the special teams, worked for Meyer at Southern Methodist University. Meyer will be his own defensive coordinator this year.

There could be a major change in the offensive scheme. The Colts are thinking of using much more two-back sets, teaming Dickerson with Albert Bentley. Dickerson fumbles fewer than one out of 100 times he touches the ball and he seems tireless, but why push it? Bentley averaged 5.1 yards on his 45 carries in a backup role to Dickerson and he catches the ball well. Putting Bentley and Rison into the lineup should cause enormous added problems for any defense.

The offensive line is a big asset. Center Ray Donaldson and tackle Chris Hinton went to the Pro Bowl again. Guards Randy Dixon and Ben Utt are solid and Kevin Call is a reliable tackle. Injuries to Hinton and Call in the early season were two reasons the Colts started so slowly last year. Brian Baldinger is a valuable reserve. He filled in well at center for the injured Donaldson during the comeback victory over Buffalo at season's end. Any discussion of the line should include tight end Pat Beach, whose blocking is important to the running game. Mark Boyer functions as the H-back.

The Colts added two interesting free agents to an improving defense. Sam Clancy, a starting end for Cleveland, probably will be used as a pass-rush specialist. Keith Bostic, long a starting safety for Houston, should bring savvy and leadership to a secondary that has been spotty in the past. Indy's third-round draft choice, Mitchell Benson of Texas Chris-

tian, has a virtual invitation to step into the starting lineup as the nose tackle. Joe Klecko retired and his backup, Byron Darby, was signed by the Los Angeles Rams. The ends, Jon Hand and Donnell Thompson, are solid, but Meyer wants more pass-rush explosion.

Duane Bickett, one of the league's best outside linebackers and a savage blitzer, may figure more prominently in that pass rush. Bickett's partner on the outside, O'Brien Alston, was the Colts' surprise rookie of 1988. Freddie Young, who cost them two first-round draft choices in an early-season trade with Seattle, should be more valuable in his first full year with Indianapolis. Young did lead the team with five forced fumbles. Cliff Odom, pushed to the bench when Young arrived, will be back at inside backer now that Barry Krauss signed with Cleveland as a free agent.

Mike Pryor, the free safety, and corner Eugene Daniel were the only defensive backs who started most of the season. It will be a disappointment if Bostic doesn't move right in at strong safety. Cornerback will be a scram-

ble. Willie Tullis, who led the team with four interceptions, signed with Detroit.

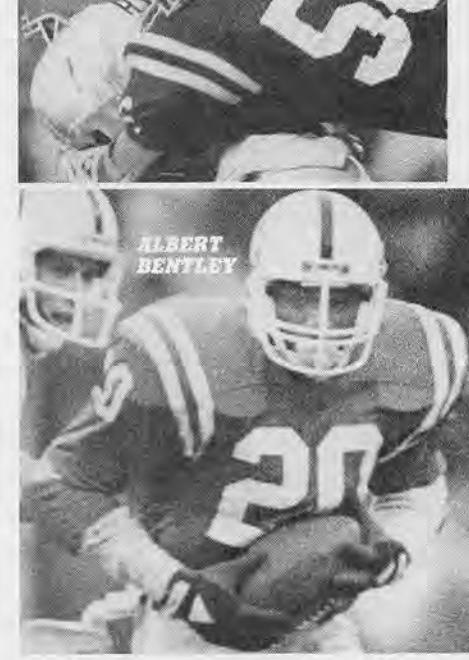
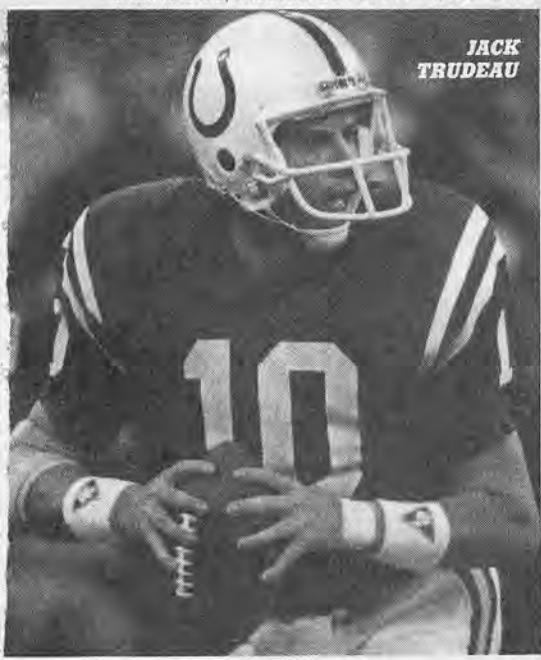
Place-kicker Dean Biasucci had good numbers again, 25 field goals in 32 tries. Punter Rohn Stark averaged 43.5 yards and Verdin averaged 10.9 yards per punt return, second in the AFC. But the coverage teams and the kickoff returns need improvement.

COLTS VETERAN ROSTER

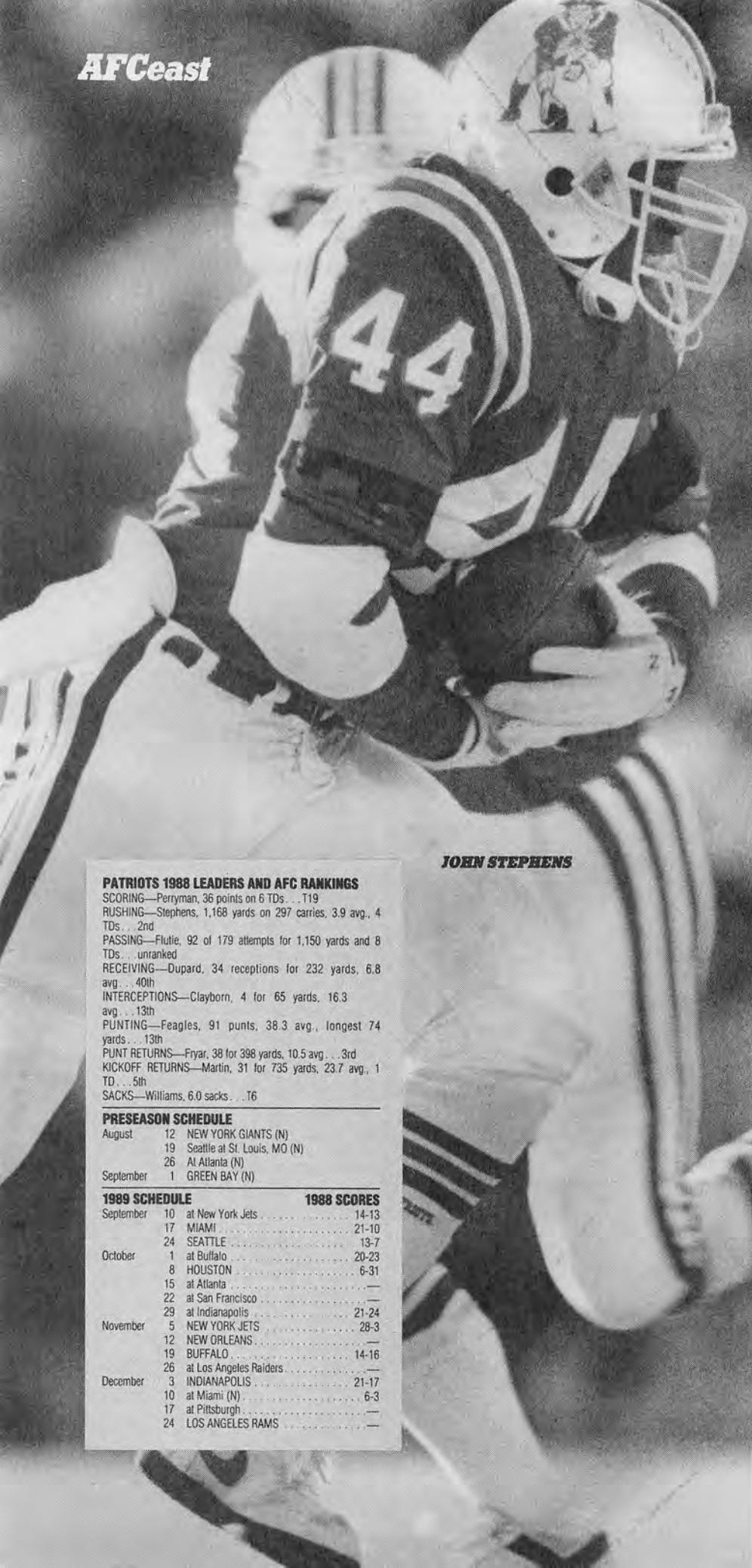
no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
97	Alston, O'Brien	LB	6-6	246	24	Maryland
79	Armstrong, Harvey	NT	6-3	268	30	SMU
62	Baldinger, Brian	OG	6-4	268	30	Duke
31	Ball, Michael	DB	6-0	216	25	Southern
86	Banks, Roy	WR	5-10	193	24	Eastern Illinois
36	Baylor, John	DB	6-0	195	24	So. Mississippi
81	Beach, Pat	TE	6-4	252	30	Washington St.
20	Bentley, Albert	RB	5-11	214	29	Miami
4	Biasucci, Dean	K	6-0	191	27	Western Carolina
50	Bickett, Duane	LB	6-5	243	27	Southern Cal
25	Bostic, Keith	S	6-1	223	28	Michigan
85	Bouza, Matt	WR	6-3	212	31	California
84	Boyer, Mark	TE	6-4	242	27	Southern Cal
88	Brandes, John	TE	6-2	255	25	Cameron
80	Brooks, Bill	WR	6-0	191	25	Boston U.
58	Brown, Phillip	LB	6-2	230	25	Alabama
52	Bulluck, Brian	LB	6-3	236	24	N.C. St.
71	Call, Kevin	OT	6-7	302	28	Colorado St.
32	Carrier, Chris	S	6-5	215	25	LSU
17	Chandler, Chris	QB	6-4	210	24	Washington
91	Clancy, Sam	DE	6-7	275	31	Pittsburgh
40	Clinkscales, Joey	WR	6-2	198	25	Tennessee
52	Crawford, Tim	LB	6-4	250	27	Texas Tech
38	Daniel, Eugene	CB	5-11	178	28	LSU
48	Dee, Donnie	TE	6-4	247	24	Tulsa
29	Dickerson, Eric	RB	6-3	217	29	SMU
69	Dixon, Randy	OT	6-3	290	24	Pittsburgh
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	288	31	Georgia
74	Ehlin, Chuck	NT	6-5	275	28	BYU
67	Eisenholt, Stan	OL	6-5	275	26	Towson State
37	Goode, Chris	DB	6-0	195	26	Alabama
78	Hand, Jon	DE	6-7	298	26	Alabama
61	Hendley, Jim	C	6-4	265	25	Florida St.
54	Herrod, Jeff	LB	6-0	243	23	Mississippi
75	Hinton, Chris	OT	6-4	295	26	Northwestern
21	Holt, John	CB	5-10	179	30	West Texas St.
90	Johnson, Ezra	DE	6-4	250	34	Morris Brown
63	Knight, Steve	OL	6-4	295	27	Tennessee
51	Kravak, Rich	LB	6-1	225	28	Pittsburgh
60	McQuaid, Dan	OL	6-7	278	29	UNLV
28	Miller, Chuckie	DB	5-10	180	24	UCLA
30	Morgan, Wellington	WR	6-2	207	26	SW Louisiana
41	Morrison, Tim	DB	6-1	200	26	North Carolina
76	Mulcahy, Philip	DL	6-4	285	25	Rhode Island
93	Odom, Cliff	LB	6-2	245	31	Texas-Arlington
23	Plummer, Bruce	DB	6-1	197	25	Mississippi St.
39	Prior, Mike	DB	6-0	204	26	Illinois St.
49	Pruitt, James	WR	6-3	198	25	Cal St.-Fullerton
72	Puzzuoli, Dave	NT	6-3	230	28	Pittsburgh
14	Ramsey, Tom	QB	6-1	185	28	UCLA
33	Rockins, Chris	DB	6-1	200	27	Oklahoma St.
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	204	30	Florida St.
26	Swoope, Craig	DB	6-1	214	25	Illinois
27	Taylor, Keith	DB	5-11	193	25	Illinois
35	Terry, Dewayne	DB	6-1	190	23	Duke
99	Thompson, Donnell	DE	6-4	275	31	North Carolina
10	Trudeau, Jack	QB	6-3	214	27	Illinois
12	Turner, Ricky	QB	6-0	190	27	Washington St.
64	Utt, Ben	OG	6-6	286	30	Georgia Tech
83	Verdin, Clarence	WR	5-4	163	26	SW Louisiana
57	Washington, Ronnie	LB	6-1	240	26	NE Louisiana
87	Weathers, Clarence	WR	5-9	172	27	Delaware St.
98	Willis, Mitch	DL	6-8	285	27	SMU
34	Wonsley, George	RB	5-10	219	29	Mississippi St.
56	Young, Freddie	LB	6-1	233	28	New Mexico St.

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Rison, Andre	WR	5-10	185	Michigan State
3	Benson, Mitchell	DT	6-3	300	TCU
4	Tomberlin, Pat	OT	6-3	310	Florida State
6	McDonald, Quintus	LB	6-3	240	Penn State
7	Hunter, Ivy Joe	RB	6-0	220	Kentucky
7	Washington, Charles	DB	6-1	205	Cameron
8	Larson, Kurt	LB	6-4	229	Michigan State
9	Mackall, William	WR	5-8	180	Tenn-Martin
10	Thompson, Jim	OT	6-6	272	Auburn
11	Johnson, Wayne	QB	6-4	213	Georgia
22	Dubose, William	RB	5-11	218	South Carolina St.
12	Taylor, Steve	CB	5-11	203	Nebraska



AFCEast



JOHN STEPHENS

PATRIOTS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Perryman, 36 points on 6 TDs...T19
RUSHING—Stephens, 1,168 yards on 297 carries, 3.9 avg., 4 TDs...2nd
PASSING—Flutie, 92 of 179 attempts for 1,150 yards and 8 TDs...unranked
RECEIVING—Dupard, 34 receptions for 232 yards, 6.8 avg...40th
INTERCEPTIONS—Clayborn, 4 for 65 yards, 16.3 avg...13th
PUNTING—Fagles, 91 punts, 38.3 avg., longest 74 yards...13th
PUNT RETURNS—Fryar, 38 for 398 yards, 10.5 avg...3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Martin, 31 for 735 yards, 23.7 avg...1 TD...5th
SACKS—Williams, 6.0 sacks...T6

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	NEW YORK GIANTS (N)
	19	Seattle at St. Louis, MO (N)
	26	Al Atlanta (N)
September	1	GREEN BAY (N)

1989 SCHEDULE		1988 SCORES
September	10	at New York Jets.....14-13
	17	MIAMI.....21-10
	24	SEATTLE.....13-7
October	1	at Buffalo.....20-23
	8	HOUSTON.....6-31
	15	at Atlanta.....—
	22	at San Francisco.....—
	29	at Indianapolis.....21-24
November	5	NEW YORK JETS.....28-3
	12	NEW ORLEANS.....—
	19	BUFFALO.....14-16
	26	at Los Angeles Raiders.....—
December	3	INDIANAPOLIS.....21-17
	10	at Miami (N).....6-3
	17	at Pittsburgh.....—
	24	LOS ANGELES RAMS.....—

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

The Patriots are a very good team which plays without a viable quarterback. That's why they didn't make the playoffs last season. That is why they may not make the playoffs this year.

New England finished fifth in the NFL in total defense, ninth in rushing, and third in pass defense. The Pats ran the ball more than anyone: 588 times. Half their yardage came on running plays. But they finished next to last in the NFL in passing, worst in the AFC. That sort of football gets a team only so far. New England scored fewer than 17 points in nine games. Only Buffalo allowed fewer points in the AFC than the 284 yielded by New England, but the Patriots scored just 250. Every team except San Diego, another team without a quarterback, scored more.

Desperate times call for desperate measures. That's why the Pats signed Raider and Green Bay reject quarterback Marc Wilson. That's why they delayed taking Steve Grogan off the active player roster and making him a coach. That's why the Pats are still kidding themselves about local hero Doug Flutie. The presence of Flutie compounds the Patriots' quarterback difficulties. The Magic One will always be a fantasy figure for New England sports fans because of his amazing feats at



DOUG FLUTIE

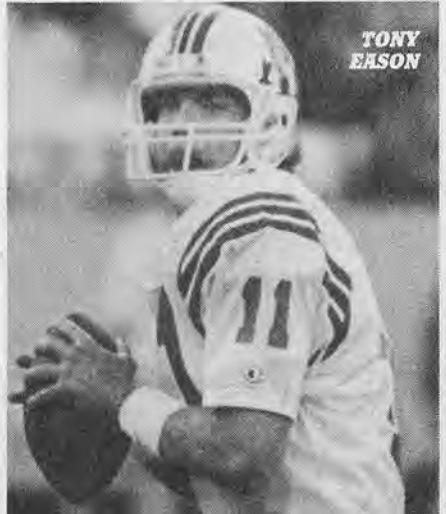
Boston College. Yet Flutie is too small to be a starting quarterback in the NFL. He proves it almost weekly. The "almost" is what has the New England strategists in a quandary. Every now and then Flutie makes something out of nothing, as he did in college, and that hardens the fans' loyalty toward him.

Late last season, the Pats made their playoff push by winning six of eight games. Flutie was the starting quarterback in that stretch, but he passed for more than 100 yards just twice. In the team's final home game, coach Raymond Berry started Tony Eason, who had been out of the lineup for more than a year after suffering a separated shoulder, at quarterback. From the time Eason's name was announced until the Patriots finally won, 10-7, over Tampa Bay in overtime, the fans were booing Eason.

"I expected it," admitted Eason. "Doug is really popular around here. I understand their bias, but I try not to think about it." General manager Pat Sullivan, angry at the booing, suggested that, "We'd be better off having a playoff game on the road...these fans put us

at a disadvantage." The Pats are going to have to live with that unpleasant reality until a quarterback comes along to ease Flutie out of the fans' consciousness. It's unlikely that Eason, long unpopular with the team's followers, will be that quarterback. The decision will be up to Berry and his new quarterback coach, Richard Wood.

Victories were accomplished in 1988 mostly by running the ball right over the opposition and by playing tough defense. The principal offensive ramrod was 220-pound John Stephens, who gained 1,168 yards in 297 carries to win the NFL offensive Rookie of the Year award. There is nothing subtle about Ste-

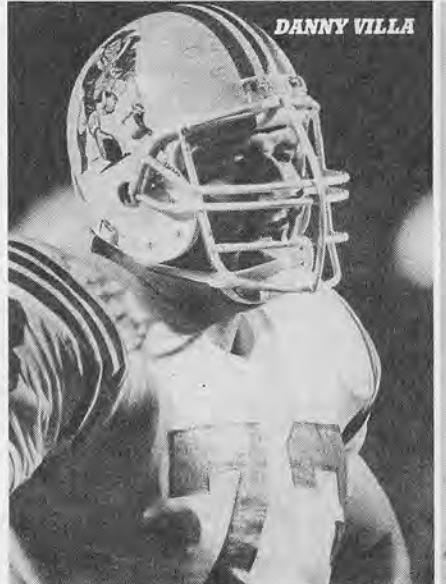


TONY EASON

phens's style. He is a pile-mover. Fullback Bob Perryman added 448 yards and a half dozen touchdowns.

The offensive line features young Bruce Armstrong, already one of the best tackles in the NFL, and guard Sean Farrell. Mike Baab, who came in a trade with Cleveland, solidified the line when he won the starting center job. Guard Ron Wooten and tackle Danny Villa are sound and experienced. Second-year pro Tom Rehder could push for a job.

Whoever plays quarterback will have imposing pass catchers. The Pats, who always draft well, selected wide receiver Hart Lee



DANNY VILLA

Dykes of Oklahoma State, an Al Toon type, as their top pick. Rookie tight end Marv Cook of Iowa, a Mickey Shuler type, has a chance to start. Eric Seivers, the ex-Charger/Ram tight end, was signed as a free agent. Even though they aren't used enough, Stanley Morgan (31 catches, 16.2 average, and four touchdowns) and Irving Fryar (33, 14.8, 5) are among the league's most dangerous receivers.

The defense can be summed up in one statistic: In seven games, the Pats gave up 13 or fewer points. They won all seven games. Outside linebacker Andre Tippett and inside backer Johnny Rembert went to the Pro Bowl. Lawrence McGrew is a solid, experienced outside man and Vincent Brown, in his second year, will challenge Ed Reynolds on the inside. End Brent Williams led the team with eight sacks and Tim Goad, a load from the start of the season, was the all-rookie nose tackle. End Garin Veris missed five games with a foot injury, but he is formidable when he's healthy. End Ken Sims returns after missing the entire season with a ruptured Achilles tendon. The secondary of free safety Fred Marion, strong safety Roland James, corners Raymond Clayborn and Ronnie Lippett, sup-



IRVING FRYAR



HART LEE DYKES

plemented by solid role players, is among the most respected in the league.

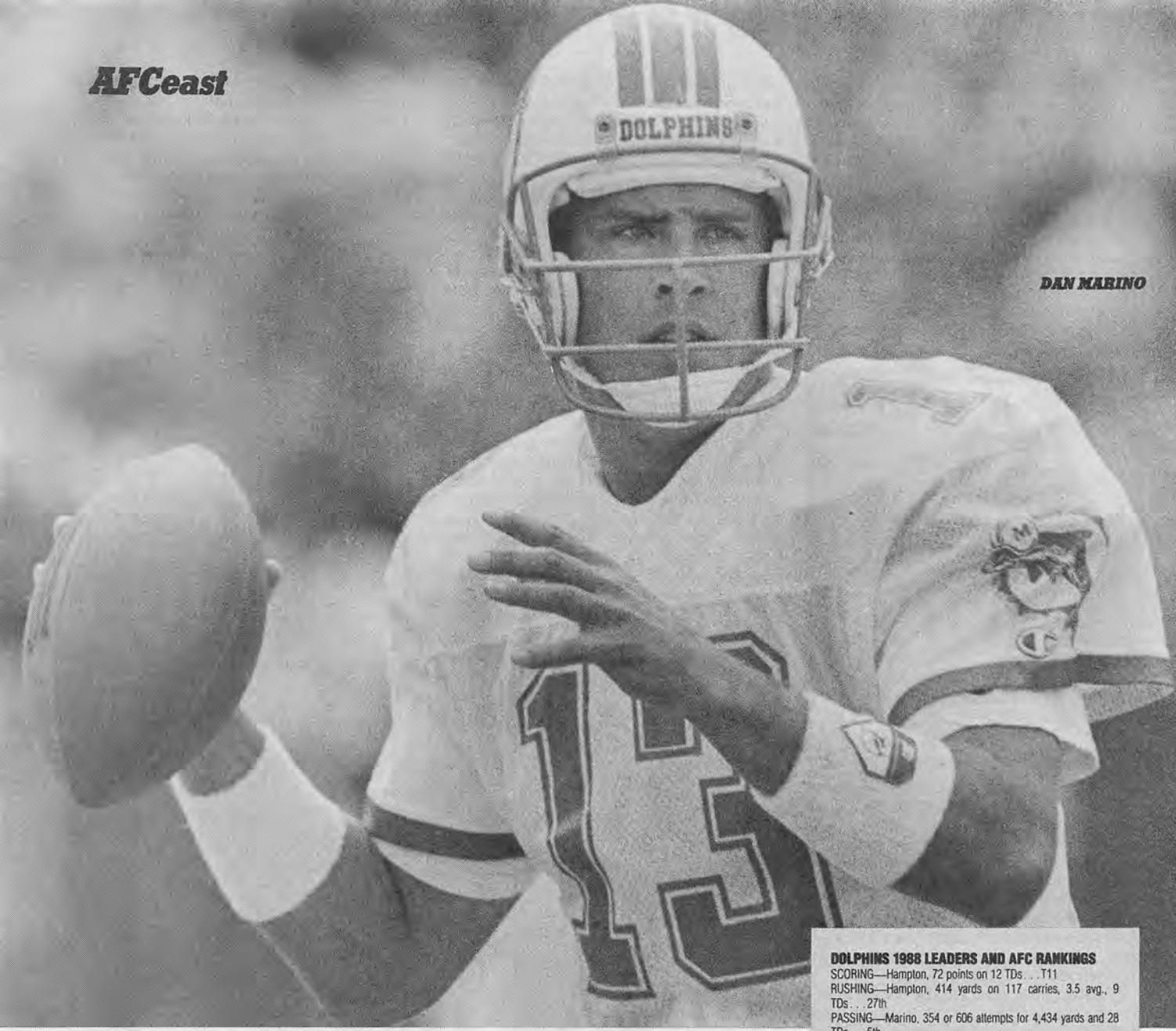
Everything except field-goal kicking is first rank with the Pats' special teams. Fryar averaged 10.5 yards per punt return, Sammy Martin 23.7 per kickoff return, and punter Jeff Feagles dropped 24 kicks inside the 20-yard line. The coverage teams were deadly.

PATRIOTS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
39 Allen, Marvin	RB	5-10	215	24	Tulane
78 Armstrong, Bruce	OT	6-4	284	24	Louisville
68 Baab, Mike	C	6-4	270	30	Texas
28 Bowman, Jim	SS	6-2	210	26	Central Michigan
59 Brown, Vincent	LB	6-2	245	24	Miss. Valley St.
26 Clayborn, Raymond	CB	6-1	186	34	Texas
Davis, Greg	K	5-11	197	24	Citadel
87 Dawson, Lin	TE	6-3	240	30	N.C. State
Douglas, David	OT	6-4	280	26	Tennessee
21 Dupard, Reggie	RB	5-11	205	26	SMU
11 Eason, Tony	QB	6-4	212	30	Illinois
66 Fairchild, Paul	OG	6-4	270	28	Kansas
62 Farrell, Sean	OG	6-3	260	29	Penn State
6 Feagles, Jeff	P	6-0	198	23	Miami
Figgins, Howard	CB	5-10	190	24	N.C. Charlotte
2 Flutie, Doug	QB	5-10	175	27	Boston College
81 Francis, Russ	TE	6-4	242	36	Oregon
80 Fryar, Irving	WR	6-0	200	27	Nebraska
48 Gadbois, Dennis	WR	6-1	183	26	Boston U.
72 Goad, Tim	NT	6-3	280	23	North Carolina
14 Grogan, Steve	QB	6-4	210	36	Kansas State
35 Hansen, Bruce	RB	6-1	230	28	Brigham Young
97 Hodge, Millard	DE	6-3	278	28	Washington St.
41 Holmes, Darryl	FS	6-2	190	25	Fort Valley St.
32 James, Craig	RB	6-0	215	28	SMU
38 James, Roland	SS	6-2	191	31	Tennessee
Jeler, Gary	DE	6-4	260	34	Southern Cal
85 Johnson, Steve	TE	6-6	245	24	Virginia Tech
83 Jones, Cedric	WR	6-1	184	29	Duke
Jones, Mike	WR	5-11	183	29	Tennessee St.
93 Jordan, Tim	LB	6-3	226	25	Wisconsin
Kenney, Astron	WR	6-4	185	26	Wisc. Stevens Pt.
Kolodziej, Chris	K	6-1	195	24	Maryland
42 Lippett, Ronnie	CB	5-11	180	29	Miami
31 Marion, Fred	FS	6-2	191	30	Miami
82 Martin, Sammy	WR	5-11	175	24	LSU
64 Matich, Trevor	C	6-4	270	28	Brigham Young
50 McGrew, Lawrence	LB	6-5	233	32	Southern Cal
16 McGuire, Kennard	WR	5-10	170	24	Tennessee
27 McPherson, Gerrick	DB	5-9	173	23	Boston College
23 McSwain, Rod	CB	6-1	198	27	Clemson
86 Morgan, Stanley	WR	5-11	181	34	Tennessee
Norton, Tim	QB	6-3	205	20	Lewis and Clark
34 Perryman, Robert	RB	6-1	233	25	Michigan
76 Rehder, Tom	OT	6-7	280	24	Notre Dame
52 Rembert, Johnny	LB	6-3	234	28	Clemson
95 Reynolds, Ed	LB	6-5	242	28	Virginia
88 Scott, Willie	TE	6-4	245	30	South Carolina
Seivers, Eric	TE	6-4	238	30	Maryland
77 Sims, Kenneth	DE	6-5	271	30	Texas
4 Staurovsky, Jason	K	5-9	170	26	Tulsa
7 Stallings, Robert	TE	6-6	265	25	Southern Miss.
44 Stephens, John	RB	6-1	220	23	Northwestern St.
30 Tatupu, Mosi	RB	6-0	227	34	Southern Cal
56 Tippett, Andre	LB	6-3	241	30	Iowa
60 Veris, Garin	DE	6-4	255	26	Stanford
Vaiane, David	OT	6-5	300	24	Minn.-Duluth
73 Villa, Danny	OT	6-5	305	25	Arizona State
94 Ward, David	LB	6-2	232	25	S. Arkansas
White, Todd	WR	6-0	182	24	Cal St.-Fullerton
Wilkins, Peter	LB	6-3	205	24	Idaho
96 Williams, Brent	DE	6-3	278	25	Toledo
54 Williams, Ed	LB	6-4	244	28	Texas
61 Wooten, Ron	OG	6-4	273	30	North Carolina

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Dykes, Hart Lee	WR	6-3	220	Oklahoma State
2	Coleman, Eric	CB	5-11	185	Wyoming
3	Cook, Marv	TE	6-3	240	Iowa
3	Gannon, Chris	DE	6-5	255	SW Louisiana
4	Hurst, Maurice	CB	5-9	185	Southern
4	Timpton, Michael	WR	5-11	175	Penn State
6	Mitchel, Eric	RB	5-11	200	Oklahoma
7	Lindstrom, Eric	LB	6-3	230	Boston College
8	Rice, Rodney	DB	5-7	180	Brigham Young
8	Zachery, Tony	DB	6-2	200	Washington
9	Norris, Darren	RB	5-9	193	Texas
9	Wilson, Curtis	C	6-3	270	Missouri
10	McNeil, Emanuel	DT	6-2	268	Tenn.-Martin
11	Hinz, Tony	RB	6-1	206	Harvard
12	Chubb, Aaron	LB	6-4	235	Georgia



DAN MARINO

MIAMI DOLPHINS

The Dolphins keep moving as fast as they can, but they keep staying in the same place. Last year they went backward, to last place, a first for coach Don Shula. The problems remain the same: a weak defense and a weak running game. Shula tried to use the draft as a cure once again, and this time he may have succeeded, at least in part. He used two first-round picks to select the big back he needs, Sammie Smith of Florida State, and a safety in the Kenny Easley/Ronnie Lott mold, Louis Oliver of Florida. The quibblers say that Smith is not durable enough, but Shula recalls that there were similar complaints about Larry Csonka, who became a Hall of Famer. The Dolphins failed with Lorenzo Hampton, a recent first-rounder, and were disappointed in Troy Stradford, but Smith has the size, speed, and ability to move in traffic that should repair the ground game.

Oliver, considered one of the top six athletes in the draft, was allowed to filter down to the 25th pick in the first round. It was eerie in its similarity to 1983, when the Dolphins se-

lected quarterback Dan Marino with the 27th pick of the opening round. The expectation is that Oliver will line up with his old college teammate, free safety Jarvis Williams.

Williams was the team's top rookie, tying for the lead in interceptions (4) and finishing second in tackles (80). If Oliver produces immediately, the Dolphins will at least be strong down the middle with John Offerdahl and Mark Brown at inside linebackers and Brian Sochia at nose tackle. Offerdahl was the top defensive player, leading in tackles with 117 despite an assortment of injuries. Sochia was a Pro Bowl alternate.

The rest of the defense is a disaster. The expensive Hugh Green never regained his prime after an injury. The other outside linebacker, Rick Graf, is a marginal player at best. The Dolphins paid a high free-agent price for E. J. Junior of the Phoenix Cardinals. The last two first-round draft choices, John Bosa and Eric Kumerow, were supposed to put some juice in the pass rush, but Bosa had just two sacks before hurting his knee in the final game and Kumerow had trouble adjusting to defen-

DOLPHINS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Hampton, 72 points on 12 TDs...T11
RUSHING—Hampton, 414 yards on 117 carries, 3.5 avg., 9 TDs...27th
PASSING—Marino, 354 or 606 attempts for 4,434 yards and 28 TDs...5th
RECEIVING—Clayton, 86 receptions for 1,129 yards, 13.1 avg., 14 TDs...2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Williams, 4 for 62 yards, 15.5 avg...14th
PUNTING—Roby, 64 punts, 43.0 avg., longest 64 yards...5th
PUNT RETURNS—Schwedes, 24 for 230 yards, 9.6 avg...7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Cribbs, 41 for 863 yards, 21.0 avg...11th
SACKS—Turner, 5.0 sacks...T11

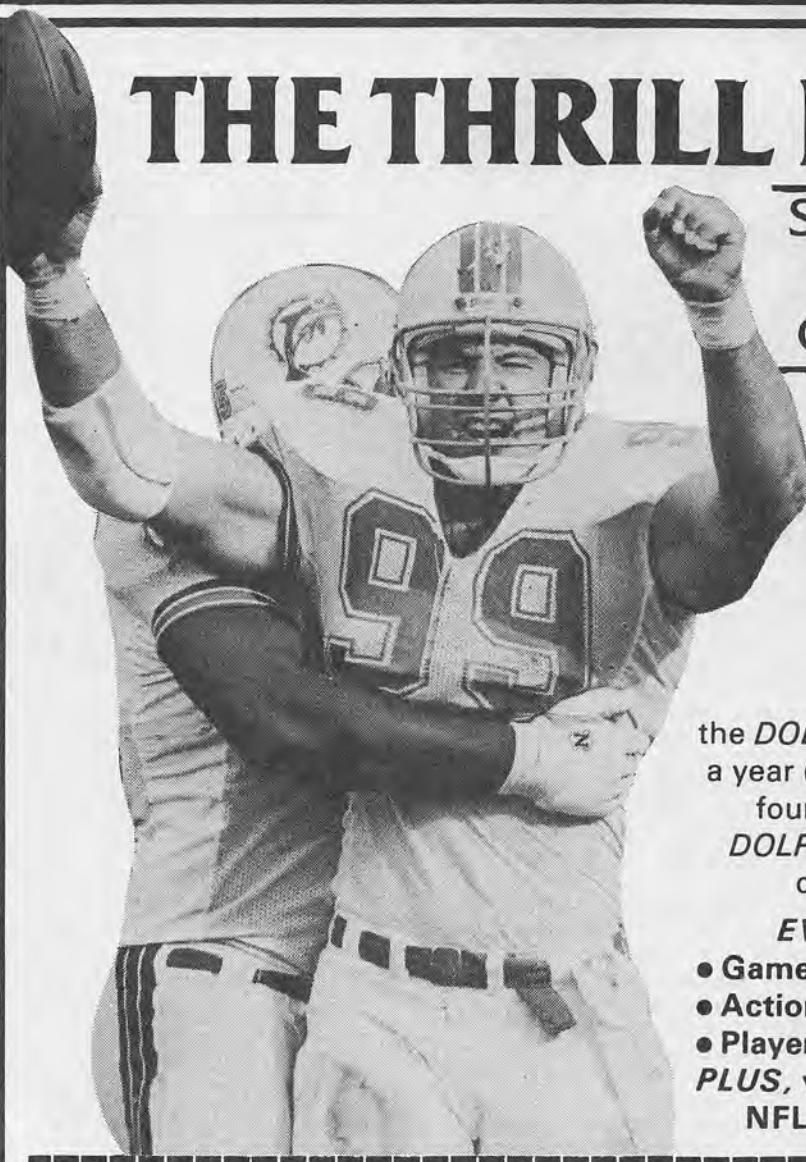
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	14	CHICAGO (N)
	19	Houston at Jacksonville, FL
	25	At Washington (N)

September 2 PHILADELPHIA (N)

1989 SCHEDULE		1988 SCORES
September	10	BUFFALO.....6-31
	17	at New England.....10-21
	24	NEW YORK JETS.....30-44
October	1	at Houston.....
	8	CLEVELAND.....38-31
	15	at Cincinnati.....
	22	GREEN BAY.....24-17
	29	at Buffalo.....6-9
November	5	INDIANAPOLIS.....28-31
	12	at New York Jets.....34-38
	19	at Dallas.....
	26	PITTSBURGH.....24-40
December	3	at Kansas City.....
	10	NEW ENGLAND.....3-6
	17	at Indianapolis.....13-15
	24	KANSAS CITY.....

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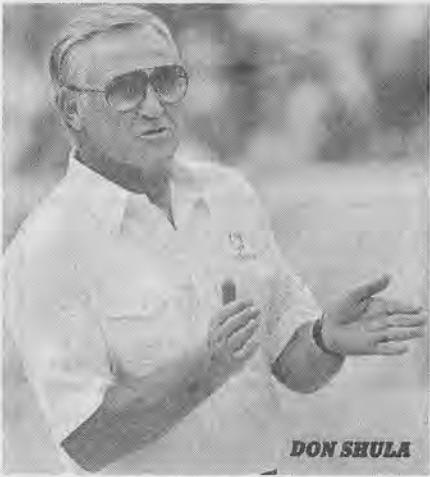
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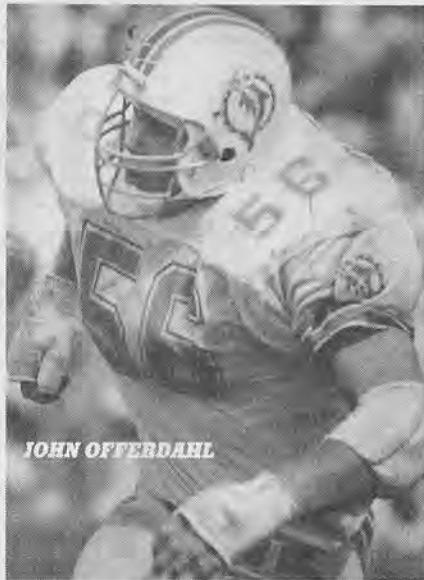
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DON SHULA



JOHN OFFERDAHL



MARK CLAYTON



SAMMIE SMITH

sive end. He is undersized for the position and made just 13 tackles, three of them sacks, in a limited role. The top sacker was journeyman end T. J. Turner. Free agent Ernest Gibson of New England could win a job at cornerback. Paul Lankford and William Judson are the incumbents. David Holmes, who was the most underrated player in Syracuse's fine secondary, could find work as a rookie.

Smith was drafted because the Dolphins were the worst running team in the NFL. They gained a mere 1,205 yards and averaged just 3.6. Hampton did know the way to the end zone, scoring nine touchdowns. But the Dolphins rushed for 11 as a team. Hampton was the leading rusher, with just 414 yards, 27th in the conference.

The worst news for the offensive line is that Dwight Stephenson, one of the all-time great centers, still hasn't made it back from his serious knee injury of two years ago. Aging journeyman tackle Ronnie Lee was the best lineman last season. Veteran starting tackle Jon Geisler was left unprotected on the free-agent list. Harry Galbreath won a starting job as a rookie guard and played commendably. Left guard Roy Foster is the most talented lineman. Jeff Dellenbach plugged the hole at center and Ohio State's Jeff Uhlenhake is a promising draftee.

Essentially, quarterback Dan Marino is the Dolphin offense. Even in an off season, he passed for 4,434 yards, tops in the NFL by far. His 28 touchdown passes tied Boomer Esiason for most in the league. His blockers allowed Marino to be sacked only six times all year, an NFL record, but his 23 interceptions dragged his efficiency rating down to 80.8, fifth in the conference.

Wide receiver Mark Clayton had a career year, catching a team-record 86 passes for 1,129 yards and 14 touchdowns. His performance accelerated in the second half of the season when partner Mark Duper was suspended by the NFL for substance abuse. Duper caught 39 passes and scored only one touchdown. Marino found two new targets in utility man Jim Jensen, who caught 58 passes and scored five touchdowns, and rookie tight end Ferrell Edmunds (33 catches for a 17.4-yard average). Edmunds drops too many balls, however. Stradford, who may become a full-time third-down receiving back now that Smith has arrived, caught 56 passes, but his average gain, 7.6, has to improve. Hampton caught 23 passes, but his 8.9 average was better than Stradford's and he caught three touchdown passes.

The Dolphins need a lift from their special teams. In almost every category they finished in the middle of the AFC pack. Punter Reggie Roby had a 43-yard average, but there may be a new place-kicker, Indiana soccer player Pete Stoyanovich, who devoted full-time to the Hoosiers' football team as a senior.

There are some major changes on Shula's coaching staff. His son, David, left to join Jimmy Johnson's new staff in Dallas. Gary Stephens, who developed some top quarter-

backs at the University of Miami, is now the Dolphins' passing-game coach. John Sandusky, the long-time offensive line coach, is now assistant head coach. George Hill, who had been Indianapolis's defensive coordinator, is the new linebacker coach. Shula's search for the right combination goes on.

DOLPHINS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
50 Ahrens, Dave	LB	6-3	240	31	Wisconsin
86 Banks, Fred	WR	5-10	180	27	Liberty
97 Bosa, John	DE	6-4	273	25	Boston College
32 Bratton, Melvin	FB	6-1	225	24	Miami
43 Brown, Bud	S	6-0	193	28	Southern Miss.
51 Brown, Mark	LB	6-2	238	28	Purdue
36 Brown, Tom	FB	6-1	220	25	Pittsburgh
59 Brudzinski, Bob	LB	6-4	235	34	Ohio State
77 Cheek, Louis	T	6-6	295	25	Texas A&M
60 Clark, Greg	LB	6-0	221	24	Arizona
83 Clayton, Mark	WR	5-9	184	28	Louisville
98 Cline, Jackie	DE	6-5	280	29	Alabama
67 Conlin, Chris	C	6-3	280	24	Penn State
89 Cooper, Jason	TE	6-4	240	23	Duke
91 Cross, Jeff	DE	6-4	270	23	Missouri
30 Davenport, Ron	FB	6-2	232	27	Louisville
65 Dellenbach, Jeff	C	6-5	280	26	Wisconsin
74 Dennis, Mark	T	6-6	290	24	Illinois
85 Duper, Mark	WR	5-9	190	30	Northwestern St.
80 Edmunds, Ferrell	TE	6-6	248	24	Maryland
61 Foster, Roy	G	6-4	275	29	Southern Cal.
53 Frye, David	LB	6-2	227	28	Purdue
58 Furjanic, Tony	LB	6-1	228	25	Notre Dame
48 Gage, Steve	S	6-3	210	25	Tulsa
62 Galbreath, Harry	G	6-1	275	24	Tennessee
42 Gibson, Ernest	CB	5-10	185	28	Furman
79 Giesler, Jon	T	6-5	272	33	Michigan
99 Gral, Rick	LB	6-5	249	26	Wisconsin
41 Grant, African	CB	6-0	198	24	Illinois
55 Green, Hugh	LB	6-2	228	30	Pittsburgh
27 Hampton, Lorenzo	RB	5-11	208	27	Florida
84 Hardy, Bruce	TE	6-4	234	33	Arizona St.
92 Hill, Nate	NT	6-4	275	23	Auburn
29 Hobley, Lifford	S	6-0	202	27	LSU
11 Jensen, Jim	WR	6-4	220	31	Boston U.
73 Johnson, Greg	G	6-4	295	25	Oklahoma
49 Judson, William	CB	6-1	192	30	South Carolina St.
54 Junior, E.J.	LB	6-3	235	30	Alabama
88 Kincher, Brian	TE	6-2	238	24	LSU
90 Kumerow, Eric	LB	6-7	260	24	Ohio State
44 Lankford, Paul	CB	6-1	199	31	Penn State
72 Lee, Ronnie	T	6-3	275	33	Baylor
25 Logan, Marc	FB	5-11	225	24	Kentucky
13 Marino, Dan	QB	6-4	222	28	Pittsburgh
93 Markland, Jeff	TE	6-3	255	24	Illinois
28 McNeal, Don	CB	6-0	193	31	Alabama
56 Offerdahl, John	LB	6-3	237	25	Western Michigan
10 Pease, Brent	DB	6-2	200	25	Montana
71 Pettyjohn, Barry	T	6-5	280	25	Pittsburgh
72 Rievez, Fuad	K	5-11	220	26	Tennessee
4 Roby, Reggie	P	6-2	242	28	Iowa
14 Rubbert, Ed	QB	6-5	222	24	Louisville
18 Schwedes, Scott	WR	6-0	182	24	Syracuse
70 Sochia, Brian	NT	6-3	275	28	N.W. Oklahoma
35 Stark, Chad	FB	6-1	226	24	North Dakota St.
31 Starr, Eric	RB	5-10	200	23	North Carolina
57 Stephenson, Dwight	C	6-2	264	32	Alabama
23 Stradford, Troy	RB	5-9	192	25	Boston College
82 Teal, Jimmy	WR	5-11	175	27	Texas A&M
45 Thomas, Rodney	CB	5-10	190	24	Brigham Young
96 Thorp, Donald	DE	6-4	265	27	Illinois
76 Tolli, Tom	G	6-5	282	27	Western Michigan
95 Turner, T.J.	DE	6-4	280	26	Houston
21 Watkins, Bobby	CB	5-10	185	29	S.W. Texas St.
9 Weider, David	OB	6-3	224	24	Carroll
22 White, Gerald	RB	5-11	223	25	Michigan
26 Williams, Jarvis	S	5-11	196	24	Florida

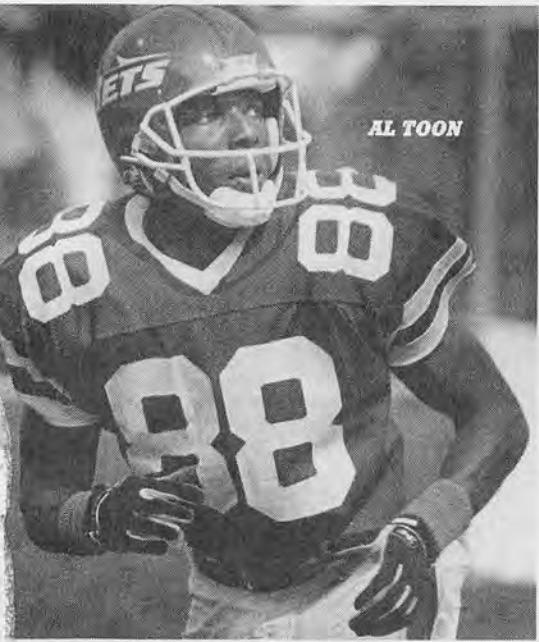
DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Smith, Sammie	RB	6-2	225	Florida State
1	Oliver, Louis	S	6-2	225	Florida
4	Holmes, David	DB	6-1	195	Syracuse
5	Uhlenhake, Jeff	C	6-3	275	Ohio State
6	Pritchett, Wes	LB	6-5	235	Notre Dame
7	Zdebar, Jim	OT	6-4	287	Youngstown St.
8	Stoyanovich, Pete	PK	6-0	175	Indiana
9	Baltise, Dana	LB	6-0	235	Texas A&M
10	Ross, Greg	DT	6-3	260	Memphis St.
10	Glover, Deval	WR	5-11	184	Syracuse
11	Weidner, Bert	DT	6-2	260	Kent State
12	Brown, J. B.	DB	6-0	190	Maryland

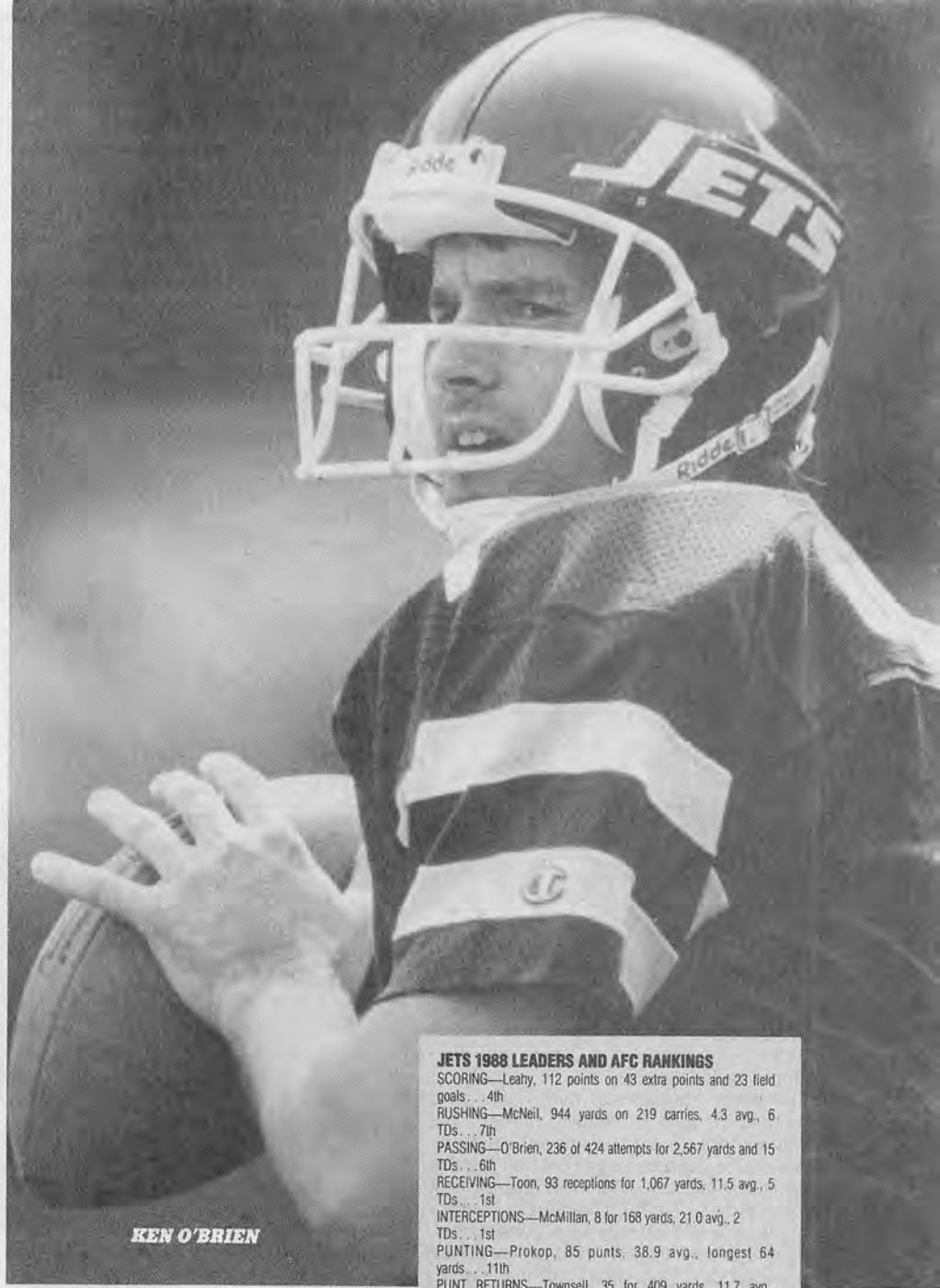
NEW YORK JETS

Unpredictable is an adjective that can't be avoided when discussing the Jets. Last season, they were the entrée in New England's 28-3 barbecue on opening day. That was just as everyone prophesied. The Jets would be a last-place team again. But then they won three straight games, including upsets over Cleveland and Houston. In early November they lost three in a row, dropped from contention, and were confronted by December, the month in which Joe Walton's Jets disappear from the radar screen. But contrary to tradition, from Thanksgiving on, the Jets won three of four and barely missed the playoffs. They upset the hated Giants, 27-21, on the final day. Even the last three losses were by slim margins: one point to New England, four to Kansas City, and three to the division champion Bills in Buffalo.

Things happened during the offseason to counter that fast finish, making the Jets unpredictable once again. First, Bud Carson, their defensive wizard, took the head-coaching job in Cleveland. Dan Radakovich, the highly regarded offensive line coach, rejoined Carson. Then there was the clamor of second-guessing at the college draft, not just from the draftniks but from the rest of the NFL. The word was that Virginia linebacker Jeff Lageman, their first pick, was drafted far too early. The further word was that their next two selections, Tulsa defensive lineman Dennis Byrd and Iowa linebacker Joe Mott, were 'outright reaches, players who would have been mid-round draft choices had the Jets not been oversold on them.



The Jets did most of their growing on defense, which is where they will have to continue to grow in order to be a contender. They were near the bottom in all major defensive categories: pass defense, run defense and total defense. But they did have the defensive rookie of the year, free safety Erik McMillan, who intercepted seven passes, two of which he returned for touchdowns, and made 80 tackles. One particular day, in an October game against Miami, underlined his value. He spotted wide receiver Mark Duper of the Dol-



phins five yards in the open field and still caught him from behind. McMillan teamed with another rookie, James Hasty, to give the Jets two of the nastiest, most combative defensive backs in the NFL. They were challenged often, but rarely with much success.

The Jets could have an improved pass defense. Converted wide receiver Bobby Humphrey seemed more comfortable at left corner as the season progressed. Strong safety Rich Miano participated in 112 tackles. The new defensive coordinator, Ralph Hawkins, will retain Carson's aggressive philosophy. What he needs is another big season from veteran end Marty Lyons, who had 7½ sacks last year, plus a smashing debut from one of the rookie linemen, Byrd or Ron Stallworth of Auburn. Lageman, whom most pro scouts forecast as an inside linebacker, will be installed on the outside, opposite Alex Gordon. That will give the Jets two huge men in the wing positions. Gordon had just three sacks last year, but he

JETS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

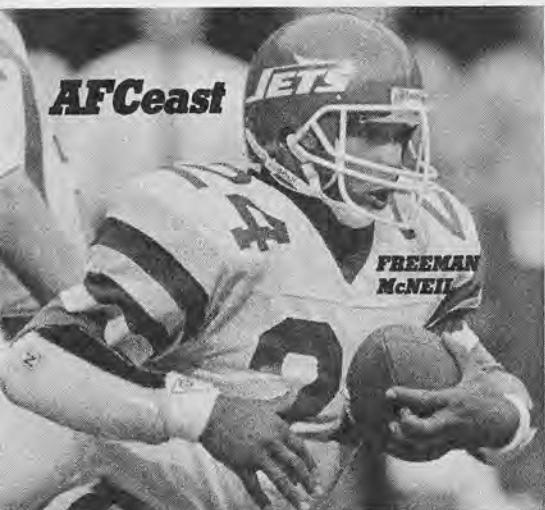
SCORING—Leahy, 112 points on 43 extra points and 23 field goals...4th
RUSHING—McNeil, 944 yards on 219 carries, 4.3 avg., 6 TDs...7th
PASSING—O'Brien, 236 of 424 attempts for 2,567 yards and 15 TDs...6th
RECEIVING—Toon, 93 receptions for 1,067 yards, 11.5 avg., 5 TDs...1st
INTERCEPTIONS—McMillan, 8 for 168 yards, 21.0 avg., 2 TDs...1st
PUNTING—Prokop, 85 punts, 38.9 avg., longest 64 yards...11th
PUNT RETURNS—Townsell, 35 for 409 yards, 11.7 avg., 1 TD...1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Humphrey, 21 for 510 yards, 24.3 avg...4th
SACKS—Lyons, 7.5 sacks...7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

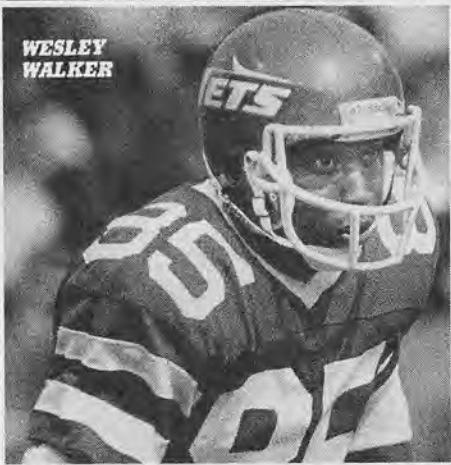
August	12	Green Bay at Milwaukee
	20	Philadelphia at Raleigh, NC (N)
	26	At New York Giants (N)
September	1	KANSAS CITY (N)

1989 SCHEDULE		1988 SCORES
September	10	NEW ENGLAND 13-14
	17	at Cleveland 23-3
	24	at Miami 44-30
October	1	INDIANAPOLIS 34-16
	9	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N) —
	15	at New Orleans —
	22	at Buffalo (OT) 6-9
	29	SAN FRANCISCO 3-28
November	5	at New England 3-28
	12	MIAMI 38-34
	19	at Indianapolis (N) 14-38
	26	ATLANTA —
December	3	at San Diego —
	10	PITTSBURGH 24-20
	17	at Los Angeles Rams —
	23	BUFFALO 14-37

AFC East



WESLEY WALKER



was credited with 21 quarterback pressures. The Jets signed two free-agent linebackers, Kansas City tough guy Tim Cofield and Tampa Bay's Jackie Walker.

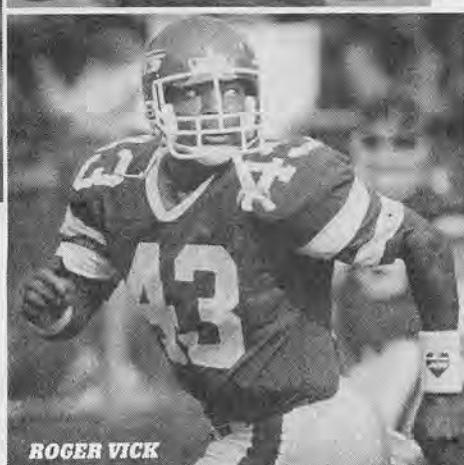
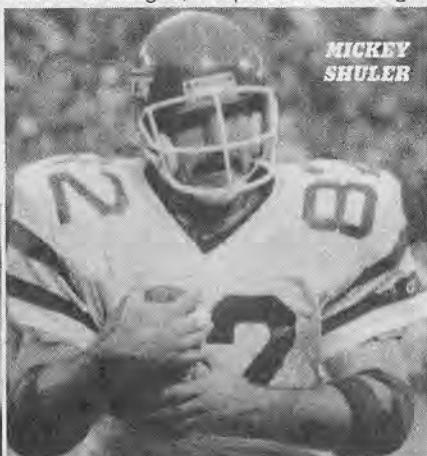
The inside linebackers, Kyle Clifton and Troy Benson, were the leading tacklers, but Kevin McArthur has been shoved inside by the arrival of Lageman and he could replace one of the starters. In order to improve against the run, nose tackle Scott Mersereau needs a big year. He did all right as a pass rusher, recording 4½ sacks and 17 pressures. Paul Frase is a Lyons-type who plays the run well.

While the focus for improvement is on defense, the Jets still win with offense. They were the only team with three ball carriers in the AFC's top 20. Freeman McNeil, playing all 16 games for the first time in his career, had 944 yards rushing and 288 receiving. His 4.3-yard rushing average made it eight seasons in a row in which he reached the 4.0 mark. Johnny Hector ran for 561 yards and 10 touchdowns while Roger Vick added 540. Hector averaged 4.1 and Vick 4.2.

Nevertheless, it was wide receiver Al Toon who won the team's Most Valuable Player award for the third straight year. He led the NFL with 93 catches for 1,067 yards. He goes into the season with an amazing streak: at least three catches in each of his last 50 games. Mickey Shuler caught 70 passes for 805 yards. In the last five years Shuler has 326 catches, the most by any NFL tight end. He has a streak of his own, 79 straight games with at least one reception. Wesley Walker is 34, but his 26 catches included seven for touch-

downs, one of which was for 50 yards, the team's longest play from scrimmage. And now the Jets have two interesting additions with which Walton can add some zip to the attack. They are converted quarterback Tony Martin of Mesa College and 5-6, 175-pound Titus Dixon of Troy State, among the fastest receivers in the draft.

The puzzle is quarterback Ken O'Brien. His efficiency rating of 78.6 was higher than that of Buffalo's Jim Kelly and Denver's John Elway, and O'Brien had the lowest interception ratio in the league, 1.7 percent. But he gets



sacked too much and he doesn't throw downfield enough. He went down 37 times last year, and not all of them were the fault of his blockers. Pat Ryan played several games and his sack rate was much better.

The offensive line is still a construction in progress. Dave Cadigan, last year's No. 1 draftee, had a rough debut at left tackle, then was lost for the season after four games. Replacement Jeff Criswell started horribly, then improved dramatically and now Cadigan has been moved to guard, where he will challenge Mike Haight and Dan Alexander. Jim Sweeney is a top-rank center and Reggie McElroy was satisfactory at right tackle.

The special teams are a major plus. JoJo Townsell led the AFC in punt returns with an 11.7-yard average. Humphrey averaged 24.3 on kickoff returns. Pat Leahy was 23-of-38 on field goals and Joe Prokop dropped 26 punts inside the 20.

JETS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
60 Alexander, Dan	G	6-4	274	33	LSU
95 Baldwin, Tom	DL	6-4	275	27	Tulsa
31 Barber, Marion	FB	6-3	228	29	Minnesota
54 Benson, Troy	LB	6-2	235	25	Pittsburgh
64 Bingham, Guy	OL	6-3	260	30	Montana
42 Booty, John	DB	6-0	179	23	TCU
66 Cadigan, Dave	OL	6-4	285	24	Southern Cal
59 Clifton, Kyle	LB	6-4	236	26	TCU
56 Cofield, Tim	LB	6-2	242	26	Elizabeth City St.
90 Cole, Robin	LB	6-2	225	33	New Mexico
61 Criswell, Jeff	OL	6-7	284	24	Grace Land
80 Dunin, K. D.	TE	6-2	237	25	Clemson
30 Faafao, Nuu	RB	5-11	220	24	Hawaii
91 Frase, Paul	DE	6-5	273	23	Syracuse
51 Galvin, John	LB	6-3	226	23	Boston College
74 Garalcyk, Mark	DL	6-5	270	23	Western Michigan
55 Gordon, Alex	LB	6-5	246	24	Cincinnati
81 Griggs, Billy	TE	6-4	234	26	Virginia
79 Haight, Mike	OL	6-4	281	26	Iowa
84 Harper, Michael	WR	5-10	180	27	Southern Cal
40 Hasty, James	CB	6-4	200	23	Washington St.
34 Hector, Johnny	RB	5-11	202	28	Texas A&M
28 Howard, Carl	DB	6-2	190	27	Rutgers
48 Humphrey, Bobby	DB	5-10	180	27	New Mexico St.
5 Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	196	37	St. Louis
93 Lyons, Marty	DL	6-5	269	31	Alabama
57 McArthur, Kevin	LB	6-2	250	25	Lamar
68 McElroy, Reggie	T	6-6	276	28	W. Texas St.
22 McMillan, Erik	S	6-2	197	23	Missouri
24 McNeil, Freeman	RB	5-11	209	29	UCLA
94 Mersereau, Scott	DL	6-3	273	23	Southern Conn.
36 Miano, Rich	S	6-0	200	26	Hawaii
77 Nichols, Gerald	DT	6-2	267	24	Florida State
7 O'Brien, Ken	QB	6-4	200	28	Cal-Davis
6 Prokop, Joe	P	6-2	224	28	Cal Poly-Pomona
25 Radachowsky, George	S	5-11	190	26	Stanford College
92 Rose, Ken	LB	6-1	205	27	Nevada-Las Vegas
10 Ryan, Pat	QB	6-3	210	33	Tennessee
75 Schreiber, Adam	OL	6-4	277	26	Texas
82 Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-3	231	32	Penn State
87 Sohn, Kurt	WR	5-11	180	31	Fordham
53 Sweeney, Jim	OL	6-4	270	26	Pittsburgh
88 Toon, Al	WR	6-4	205	25	Wisconsin
83 Townsell, JoJo	WR	5-9	180	29	UCLA
43 Vick, Roger	FB	6-3	228	24	Texas A&M
58 Walker, Jackie	LB	6-5	245	27	Jackson St.
85 Walker, Wesley	WR	6-0	182	33	California
76 Withycombe, Mike	OL	6-5	295	24	Fresno State
38 Zordich, Mike	S	5-11	199	25	Penn State

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Lageman, Jeff	LB	6-5	240	Virginia
2	Byrd, Dennis	DT	6-4	265	Tulsa
3	Mott, Joe	LB	6-3	240	Iowa
4	Stallworth, Roy	DT	6-2	260	Auburn
5	Martin, Tony	WR	6-0	175	Mesa College
6	Washington, Marvin	DE	6-6	260	Idaho
6	Dixon, Titus	WR	5-6	175	Troy State
7	Moore, Steven	DB	5-11	207	Mississippi
8	Brown, Anthony	RB	5-9	212	West Virginia
9	Marlatt, Pat	DT	6-5	270	West Virginia
10	Bob, Adam	LB	6-1	240	Texas A&M
11	Holmes, Artie	DB	5-11	201	Washington St.
12	Snead, Willie	WR	5-11	190	Florida

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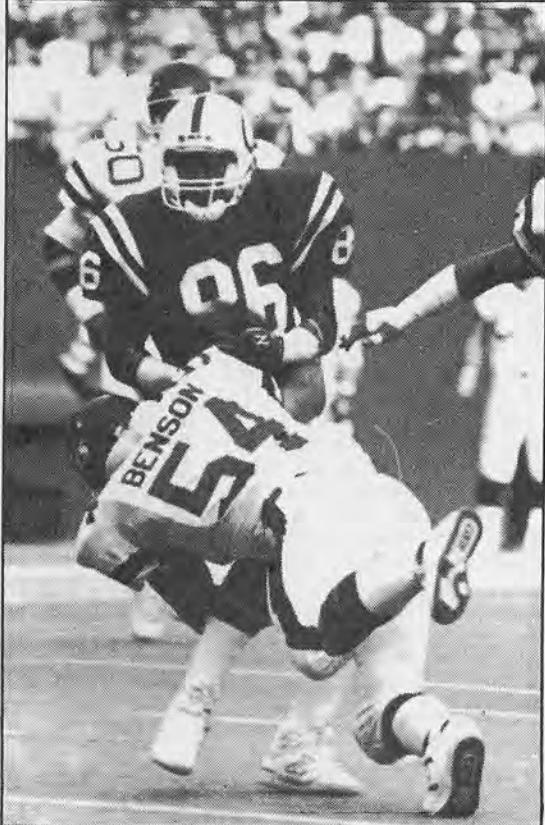
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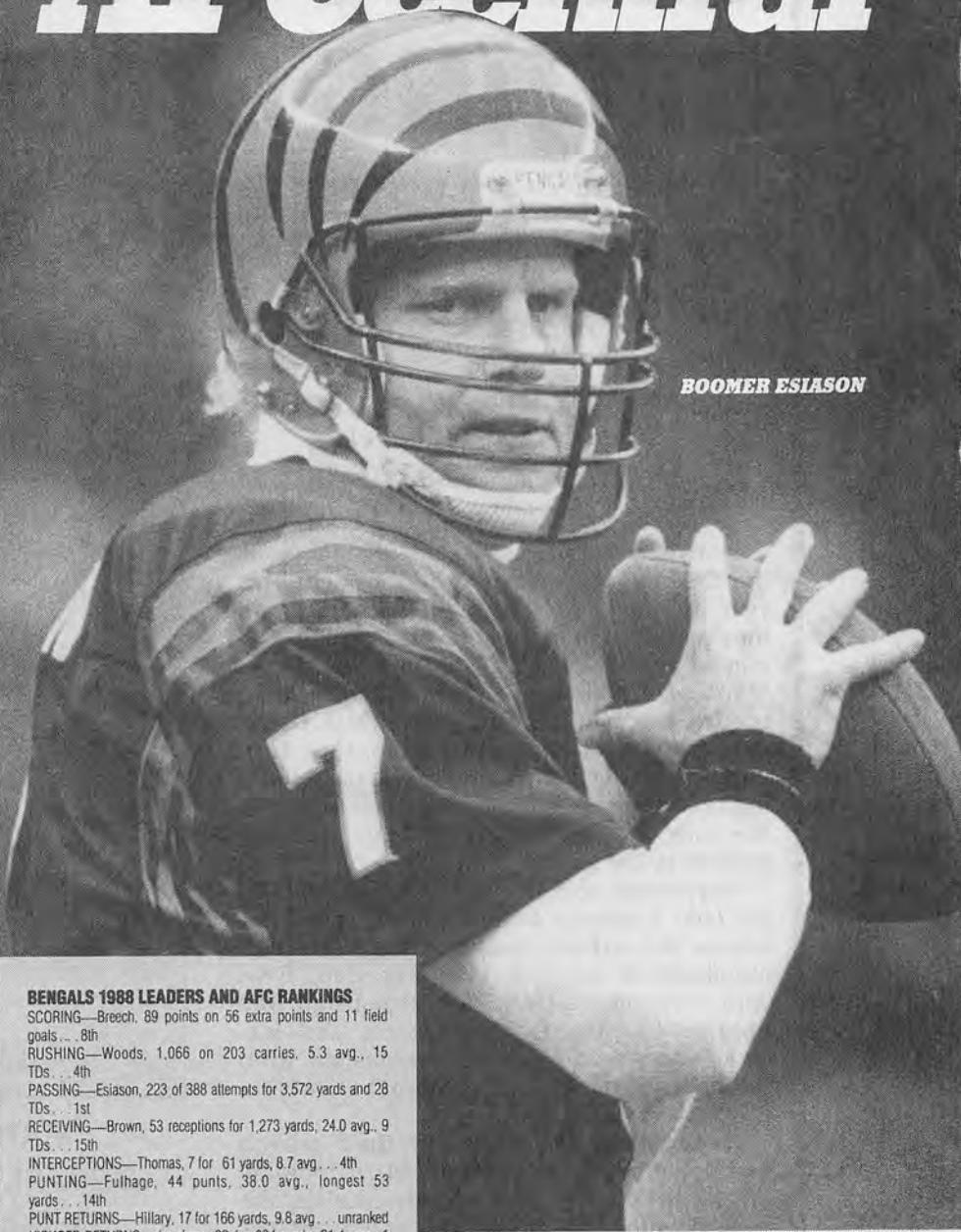
CINCINNATI BENGALS

The Bengals win conference championships the old-fashioned way: by exercising patience. Paul Brown, the Bengals' patriarch, didn't fire Sam Wyche, his coach, after the 1987 season, even though he had sufficient cause. Wyche, given a reprieve, toned down his act, concentrated on football, and ended up in the Super Bowl.

This year the Bengals chose not to enter the NFL's free-agent auction, signing no new players even though they lost nine of their own to other teams. Brown and his strategists decided that they had the proper chemistry in Cincinnati and declined to tamper with it. Who can blame them? Cinci looks like a team that can stay at or near the top for a long time. There is one proviso: depth. Some of the kids the Bengals lost in the free-agent pool might have come in handy if injuries strike. Replacement will have to be trained in a hurry.

The core of the Bengals is young and impressive. Boomer Esiason arrived as a quarterback of top rank last year, compiling the best efficiency rating in the NFL, 97.4, while passing for 28 touchdowns and 3,572 yards and igniting the highest scoring offense in the league. With Esiason's passing the feature, Cinci won seven of its first eight games to take command in the fiercely competitive AFC Central. But there was an interesting departure in the last month of the season and during the playoffs. The offensive emphasis shifted away from Esiason and his passing to the running game. With Ickey Woods establishing himself as the surprise rookie of the year, Wyche changed strategic gears and sent Woods straight at opposing defenses, with the Bengals' enormous linemen drive-blocking consistent holes for him. Woods ran for 1,066 yards and a 5.3 yards-per-carry aver-

AFCcentral



BOOMER ESIAJON



ICKEY WOODS

BENGALS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Breech, 89 points on 56 extra points and 11 field goals...8th
RUSHING—Woods, 1,066 on 203 carries, 5.3 avg., 15 TDs...4th
PASSING—Esiason, 223 of 388 attempts for 3,572 yards and 28 TDs...1st
RECEIVING—Brown, 53 receptions for 1,273 yards, 24.0 avg., 9 TDs...15th
INTERCEPTIONS—Thomas, 7 for 61 yards, 8.7 avg...4th
PUNTING—Fulhage, 44 punts, 38.0 avg., longest 53 yards...14th
PUNT RETURNS—Hillary, 17 for 166 yards, 9.8 avg...unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Jennings, 32 for 684 yards, 21.4 avg., 1 TD...9th
SACKS—Skow, 9.5 sacks...T3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	13	BUFFALO (N)
	19	At Detroit (N)
	28	At New Orleans (N)
September	1	At Minnesota (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

September	10	at Chicago	—
	17	PITTSBURGH	42-7
	25	CLEVELAND (N)	24-17
October	1	at Kansas City	28-31
	8	at Pittsburgh	17-12
	15	MIAMI	—
	22	INDIANAPOLIS	—
	29	TAMPA BAY	—
November	5	at Los Angeles Raiders	45-21
	13	at Houston (N)	6-41
	19	DETROIT	—
	26	at Buffalo	35-21
December	3	CLEVELAND	16-23
	10	SEATTLE	—
	17	HOUSTON	44-21
	25	at Minnesota (N)	—

age, better than Eric Dickerson, Herschel Walker, John Stephens, or any other back in the league. Woods also ran for 15 touchdowns, high in the AFC.

The Bengals finished first in the NFL in rushing and total offense, in scoring, in touchdowns and touchdowns rushing, in first downs and first downs rushing, in net yards rushing and in average gain per rush, in average gain per pass play and combined net yards, in average yards per play and average time of possession.

The heart of the Bengal offense is the line. Jim McNally, the team's highly regarded line coach, personally scouts all his prospects and has his own standards. His guys must be huge, extremely strong, and able to explode off the line. Speed isn't even considered. McNally likes to stockpile his talent. The Bengals played most of last year without one of their best linemen, tackle Joe Walter, and still

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excelled. It probably will take Walter all year to rehabilitate his knee, so Cinci will line up as it did in the Super Bowl, with all-pro Anthony Munoz and Brian Blades at tackles, Bruce Reimers and Pro Bowler Max Montoya at guards, and the underrated Bruce Kozerski at center. Another big man, 328-pound Freddie Childress of Arkansas, was taken in the second round of the draft.

Defenses can't afford to overplay Woods in attempting to stop the Cincinnati running attack. Little James Brooks gained 931 yards and scored eight touchdowns. Brooks is 30 now, so the Bengals used their top draft pick to select UCLA's talented but often injured Eric Ball. By dividing playing time, Wyche might be able to preserve both Brooks and Ball.

None of the Cincinnati receivers finished among the AFC's top 10, but collectively they are a load. Eddie Brown averaged 24 yards, by far the highest in the league among full-time starters, on his 53 catches, nine of which went for touchdowns. His partner, Tim McGee, averaged 19.1 yards, also among the top five in the NFL, on his 36 catches. He scored six times. When Esiason wants to take yards in smaller gobs, he throws to tight end Rodney Holman, who caught 39 passes for a 13.3-yard average, and to Brooks, who averaged 9.9 yards on his 29 receptions and caught six touchdown passes.

The Bengals don't play defense nearly so well as they play offense, but they are far more than adequate. They intercepted 22 passes and recovered 14 fumbles, which can cover a multitude of deficiencies. Players tend to drop the ball against the Bengals. Bubby Brister and Dwight Stone of Pittsburgh, Ken O'Brien of the New York Jets, and Warren Moon of Houston each fumbled three times in one game against Cincinnati. The Bengals also have a flair for the dramatic play on defense. Their 42 sacks trailed only Buffalo and the Jets in the AFC and matched the figure of their Super Bowl conqueror, San Francisco. Right end Jim Skow led the team with 9½ sacks, but the pass rush can come from all directions. Jason Buck had a modest six during the sea-

son, then had a field day against Buffalo in the AFC title game with three sacks. Reserve linebacker Leo Barker recorded four, as did reserve safety Barney Bussey.

The best offseason news for the Bengals was that fiery nose tackle Tim Krumrie, who broke his leg in the Super Bowl, made a spectacular comeback and probably will be in the lineup on opening day. Krumrie is the spiritual

was underway. Consequently he was used only in a utility role. It would be a surprise if he doesn't beat out Solomon Wilcots at free safety. Louis Billups and Eric Thomas, who led the team with seven interceptions, are tenacious cornerbacks. The major free-agency losses were to the defensive depth. Linebacker Emanuel King signed with the Raiders, cornerback Daryl Smith with Minnesota, and safety Ray Horton with Dallas.

The kicking game wasn't much of a factor for the Bengals last season. Jim Breech tried only 16 field goals and made 11. Scott Fulhage, who hurt his back, finished last in AFC punting. Lee Johnson kicked in the playoffs and did much better. The coverage teams fared poorly, but Stanford Jennings averaged 21.4 yards on kickoff returns and then went coast-to-coast in the Super Bowl.



leader of the defense. David Grant filled in well for Krumrie on Super Sunday. Skip McClendon lines up opposite Skow on running plays. The linebacking crew is a veteran one with Leon White and Reggie Williams on the outside and Joe Kelly and Carl Zander inside. Williams turns 35 in September, but he still plays like a colt.

David Fulcher set a trend in the NFL with his style in 1988: playing strong safety like a linebacker. Fulcher is now one of the most feared defensive players in the league. The big change this season will involve Rickey Dixon. The Bengals' No. 1 draft choice a year ago, Dixon didn't sign a contract until the season

BENGALS VETERAN ROSTER

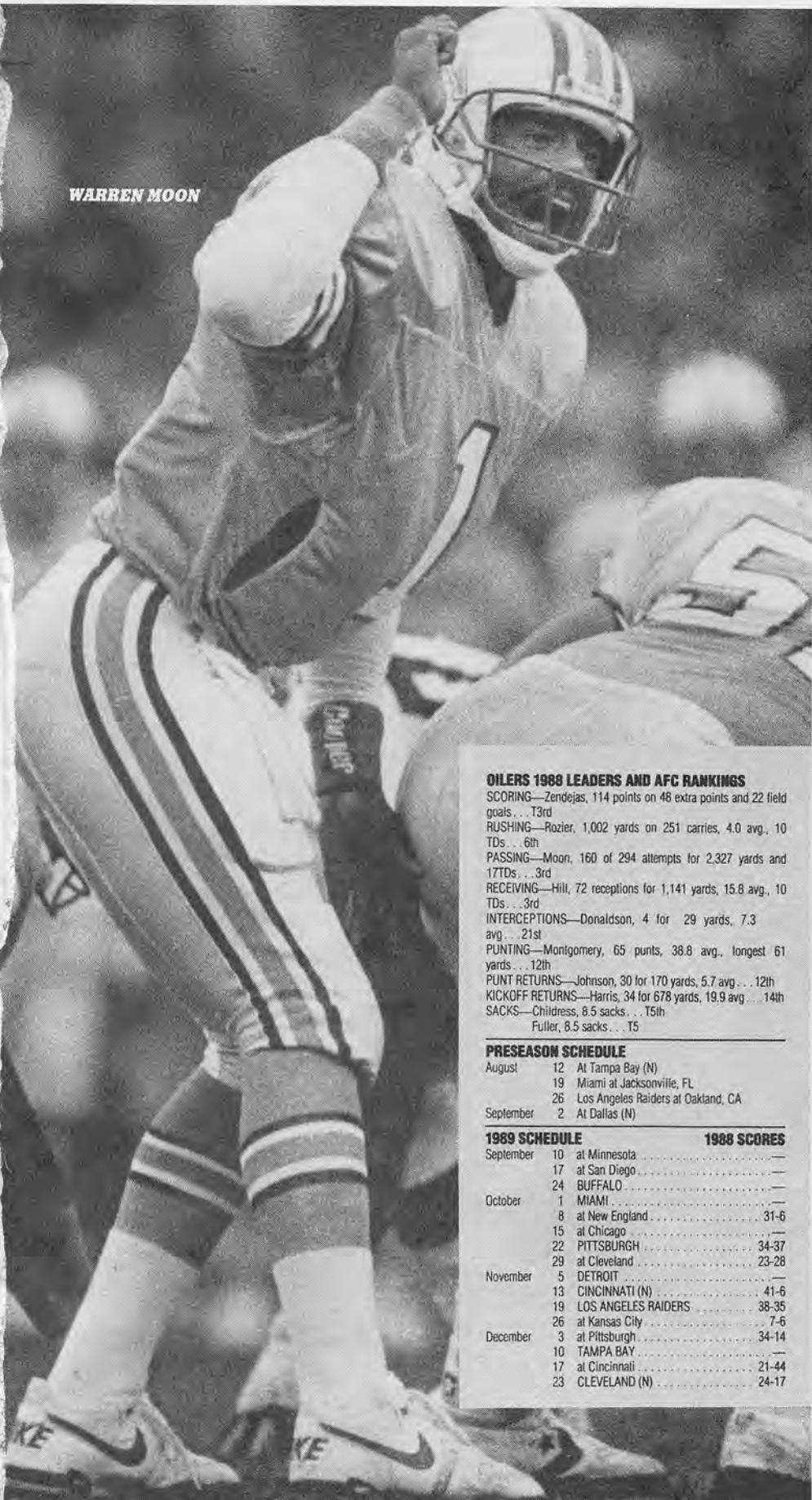
no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
35	Barber, Chris	S	6-0	187	25	No. Carolina A&T
53	Barker, Leo	LB	6-2	227	30	New Mexico St.
24	Billups, Lewis	CB	5-11	190	25	North Alabama
74	Blados, Brian	G	6-5	275	27	North Carolina
55	Brady, Ed	LB	6-2	235	29	Illinois
3	Breech, Jim	K	5-6	161	33	California
21	Brooks, James	RB	5-10	181	31	Auburn
81	Brown, Eddie	WR	6-0	185	27	Miami
99	Buck, Jason	DE	6-5	265	26	Brigham Young
27	Bussey, Barney	S	6-0	195	27	South Carolina
80	Collinsworth, Cris	WR	6-5	192	30	Florida
29	Dixon, Rickey	CB	5-11	177	23	Oklahoma
7	Esiason, Boomer	QB	6-5	228	28	Maryland
33	Fulcher, David	S	6-3	228	25	Arizona State
17	Fulhage, Scott	P	5-11	191	28	Kansas State
98	Grant, David	NT	6-4	277	24	West Virginia
71	Hammerstein, Mike	DE	6-4	270	26	Michigan
89	Hillary, Ira	WR	5-11	190	27	South Carolina
40	Hoffeld, Jon	RB	6-0	202	25	West Virginia
82	Holman, Rodney	TE	6-3	238	29	Tulane
37	Jackson, Robert	DB	5-10	186	31	Central Michigan
36	Jennings, Stanford	RB	6-1	205	27	Furman
68	Jettton, Paul	G	6-4	288	25	Texas
30	Johnson, Bill	RB	6-2	230	29	Arkansas State
11	Johnson, Lee	P	6-2	198	28	Brigham Young
84	Kattus, Eric	TE	6-5	235	26	Michigan
58	Kelly, Joe	LB	6-2	231	25	Washington
64	Kozerski, Bruce	OL	6-4	275	27	Holy Cross
42	Knapczyk, Ken	WR	6-0	185	26	North Iowa
69	Krumrie, Tim	NT	6-2	268	28	Wisconsin
88	Martin, Mike	WR	5-10	186	28	Illinois
72	McClendon, Skip	DE	6-7	275	25	Arizona State
85	McGee, Tim	WR	5-10	175	25	Tennessee
65	Montoya, Max	G	6-5	275	33	UCLA
78	Munoz, Anthony	T	6-6	278	31	USC
86	Parker, Carl	WR	6-2	204	24	Vanderbilt
75	Reimers, Bruce	T	6-7	280	29	Iowa State
87	Riggs, Jim	TE	6-5	245	26	Clemson
94	Romer, Rich	LB	6-3	214	23	Union
15	Schonert, Turk	QB	6-1	196	32	Stanford
70	Skow, Jim	DE	6-3	255	26	Nebraska
22	Thomas, Eric	CB	5-11	181	25	Tulane
59	Walker, Kevin	LB	6-2	238	24	Maryland
63	Walter, Joe	T	6-6	290	26	Texas Tech
51	White, Leon	LB	6-3	245	26	Brigham Young
41	Wilcots, Solomon	CB	5-11	185	25	Colorado
57	Williams, Reggie	LB	6-1	232	35	Dartmouth
32	Woods, Stanley	RB	6-1	212	27	Oklahoma
30	Woods, Ikeey	RB	6-2	232	23	UNLV
91	Zander, Carl	LB	6-2	235	26	Tennessee

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Ball, Eric	RB	6-1	215	UCLA
2	Childress, Freddie	G	6-4	340	Arkansas
3	Wilhelm, Erik	QB	6-2	215	Oregon St.
4	Owens, Kenny	LB	6-2	235	Arkansas
4	Woods, Rob	OT	6-5	275	Arizona
5	Tuataloalo, Nalu	DT	6-3	250	California
6	Taylor, Craig	RB	5-11	220	West Virginia
7	Smith, Kendal	WR	5-9	182	Utah State
8	Chenault, Chris	LB	6-1	240	Kentucky
9	Stephens, Richard	OT	6-7	309	Tulsa
10	Holloway, Comell	DB	5-9	175	Pittsburgh
10	Jean, Robert	QB	6-2	210	New Hampshire
11	Wells, Dana	DT	6-0	267	Arizona
12	Jones, Scott	OL	6-5	255	Washington



ANTHONY MUNOZ



WARREN MOON

HOUSTON OILERS

Coach Jerry Glanville's stock speech last spring went like this: "Have you ever been huntin'? You know what happens after you shoot a deer? They gut it. That's what they did to our football team."

Well, not quite. The Oilers did lose 14 players in the free-agent auction, including starting strong safety Keith Bostic to Indianapolis and starting tight end Jamie Williams to San Francisco. But that was more a salute to the number of good players on their roster. Even subtracting the 14, which does chip away at Houston's depth, there are still quite a few outstanding players who remain. The Oilers should be just as strong a contender for the AFC Central title as they were a year ago. Consider the team's collective skills. They run the ball superbly and they stop the run, possibly the two most important elements in the winning formula. They tied for fourth in the NFL in rushing and fourth in rushing defense. They also succeed in big-play passing and they rush the quarterback fiercely.

The Oilers' major liability is that they play in the same division as the Cincinnati Bengals, the AFC delegate to the last Super Bowl. Whatever the Oilers do well, the Bengals seem to do better. Houston scored 424 points, second-best in the AFC. Cinci scored 448. Quarterback Warren Moon finished third in the AFC with an efficiency rating of 88.4. Boomer Esiason of Cinci finished first. Houston scored 51 touchdowns, second in the NFL. Cinci had 59.

If Houston has a chance to leap past the Bengals this season, the edge may be with its versatile running game. Everything the Oilers do offensively seems to stem from the ground attack. Like Cincinnati, their key is the offensive line. Three starters, tackle Dean Steinkuhler and guards Bruce Matthews and Mike Munchack, rank with the NFL's elite linemen. Jay Pennison is a solid center and ex-Raider Bruce Davis played surprisingly well at left tackle. The first-round draft choice was used to select another premium lineman, 295-pound strongman David Williams of Florida. Williams started 45 consecutive college games and was well-trained as a run blocker and pass protector. A change in tactics may have been forced when tight end Jamie Williams was signed by San Francisco. He was primarily a blocker. The Oilers signed Tampa Bay's Calvin Magee as his replacement. He may not block as well as Williams, but his pass-receiving possibilities are greater.

Houston is two-deep with quality runners. Mike Rozier became the first Oiler back since Earl Campbell to have a 1,000-yard season. He also scored 10 touchdowns. Alonzo Highsmith was used mostly as a blocker, but he averaged five yards a carry and had the team's longest run from scrimmage: 42 yards. Allen Pinkett, Rozier's backup, added 513 yards and was the leading rusher in the playoffs. Ex-Michigan State star Lorenzo White got little work as a rookie, averaging just 2.7 yards on his 33 carries, but he did run for five touchdowns and returned a kickoff 90 yards for another score. One negative: Rozier and Highsmith each fumbled seven times.

With the running game functioning consistently well, Moon used it to set up his deep passing attack. The two waterbug receivers, Drew Hill and Ernest Givins, terrified a lot of cornerbacks. Hill caught 72 passes for 1,141

OILERS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Zendejas, 114 points on 48 extra points and 22 field goals...T3rd
RUSHING—Rozier, 1,002 yards on 251 carries, 4.0 avg., 10 TDs...6th
PASSING—Moon, 160 of 294 attempts for 2,327 yards and 17 TDs...3rd
RECEIVING—Hill, 72 receptions for 1,141 yards, 15.8 avg., 10 TDs...3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Donaldson, 4 for 29 yards, 7.3 avg...21st
PUNTING—Montgomery, 65 punts, 38.8 avg., longest 61 yards...12th
PUNT RETURNS—Johnson, 30 for 170 yards, 5.7 avg...12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Harris, 34 for 678 yards, 19.9 avg...14th
SACKS—Childress, 8.5 sacks...T5th
Fuller, 8.5 sacks...T5

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	At Tampa Bay (N)
	19	Miami at Jacksonville, FL
	26	Los Angeles Raiders at Oakland, CA
September	2	At Dallas (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

		1988 SCORES	
September	10	at Minnesota	—
	17	at San Diego	—
	24	BUFFALO	—
October	1	MIAMI	—
	8	at New England	31-6
	15	at Chicago	—
	22	PITTSBURGH	34-37
	29	at Cleveland	23-28
November	5	DETROIT	—
	13	CINCINNATI (N)	41-6
	19	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	38-35
	26	at Kansas City	7-6
December	3	at Pittsburgh	34-14
	10	TAMPA BAY	—
	17	at Cincinnati	21-44
	23	CLEVELAND (N)	24-17

yards, a 15.8-yard average, and 10 touchdowns. Givins caught 60 for 976 yards, a 16.3 average, and five TDs. Haywood Jeffires, a latent talent, may have blossomed in the playoffs. He averaged 16.3 on eight catches.

Moon is the leader who ignites the Oilers. In the wild-card victory over the Browns, he was intercepted three times but still came back to push his team to victory in Cleveland Stadium, where Houston had lost just seven days before. Moon, despite a mid-season injury, accumulated 2,327 passing yards and threw for 17 touchdowns. Just as significant were two other statistics: His 2.7 interception percentage was among the league's lowest and he was sacked just 12 times, thanks in part to his offensive line but also to his personal mobility. Glanville is pleased with the progress of Cody Carlson, who made his first NFL start when Moon was hurt. Carlson helped keep the Oilers in contention. They were 2-2 under him.

Defensively, the Oilers have one of the most balanced pass rushes in the league. Ray Childress, courted unsuccessfully by the Chicago Bears after his contract ran out in the spring, had his highest sack total, 8½, a figure matched by pass-rush specialist William Fuller. Blitzing linebacker Johnny Meads added weight. Sean Jones, who came from the Raiders in a major trade, had 7½. Houston had 42 sacks overall. Stopping the run is just as much a priority. The Oilers were the only team in the AFC to keep the opposition under 100 yards rushing per game.



SEAN JONES

Inside linebacker John Grimsley led the defense in tackles with 111, the second time in three years as a starter that he was the leader. Al Smith, the other inside backer, finished second with 96 tackles. Meads's partner, Robert Lyles, is better known as a coverage linebacker. Scott Kozak of Oregon, drafted in the second round, could push for work on the

outside. The Oilers lost two reserves, Toby Caston and Walter Johnston, to free agency.

The favorite to replace Bostic is rookie Bubba McDowell, who played corner as well as safety for the Miami Hurricanes. He blocked five kicks one season and his versatility should be valuable. Jeff Donaldson is an underrated free safety. Cornerback Patrick Allen also falls into the unsung category. He had six shutouts in man-to-man coverage and six other games in which he permitted just one reception. The other corner, Steve Brown, is a good open-field tackler.

Tony Zendajas should be judged on his finishing kicks. After missing eight of his first 12 field-goal attempts, he was successful on 16 of his last 20, including six from 46 yards or beyond. Punter Mike Montgomery was so-so as a rookie. Newcomer Rod Harris of Texas A&M was drafted to awaken the return game.



MIKE ROZIER



MIKE MUNCHAK



ERNEST GIVINS

OILERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
29	Allen, Patrick	CB	5-10	182	28	Utah State
24	Brown, Steve	CB	5-11	192	29	Oregon
38	Bryant, Domingo	S	6-4	178	26	Texas A&M
71	Byrd, Richard	NT	6-4	267	27	S. Mississippi
35	Byrum, Carl	FB	6-1	237	27	Miss. Valley
14	Carlson, Cody	QB	6-3	199	26	Baylor
79	Childress, Ray	DE	6-6	270	27	Texas A&M
39	Clinton, Charles	CB	5-8	170	27	San Jose St.
77	Davis, Bruce	T	6-6	315	33	UCLA
28	Dishman, Cris	CB	6-0	180	24	Purdue
31	Donaldson, Jeff	S	6-0	190	27	Colorado
80	Duncan, Curtis	WR	5-11	185	24	Northwestern
21	Eaton, Tracey	S	6-1	190	24	Portland St.
51	Fairs, Eric	LB	6-3	240	25	Memphis State
95	Fuller, William	DE	6-3	269	27	North Carolina
97	Garalcyk, Mark	DL	6-6	275	25	W. Michigan
81	Givins, Ernest	WR	5-9	172	25	Louisville
59	Grimsley, John	LB	6-2	238	27	Kentucky
83	Harris, Leonard	WR	5-8	162	29	Texas Tech
32	Hightsmith, Alonzo	FB	6-1	234	24	Miami
85	Hill, Drew	WR	5-9	175	33	Georgia Tech
86	Jackson, Kenny	WR	5-11	180	27	Penn State
84	Jeffries, Haywood	WR	6-2	198	25	N.C. St.
22	Johnson, Kenny	S	5-10	175	31	Mississippi St.
23	Johnson, Richard	CB	6-1	190	26	Wisconsin
27	Jones, Quintin	S	5-11	193	23	Pittsburgh
96	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	273	27	Northeastern
93	Lyles, Robert	LB	6-1	230	28	TCU
73	Maarleveld, J. D.	T	6-6	280	28	Maryland
89	Magee, Calvin	TE	6-3	255	26	Southern
78	Maggs, Don	OL	6-5	285	28	Tulane
74	Matthews, Bruce	G	6-5	293	28	Southern Cal
91	Meads, Johnny	LB	6-2	235	28	Nicholls St.
9	Montgomery, Greg	P	6-3	213	25	Michigan St.
50	Monger, Matt	LB	6-1	238	28	Oklahoma St.
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	210	33	Washington
63	Munchak, Mike	G	6-3	284	29	Penn State
52	Pennison, Jay	C	6-1	282	28	Nicholls St.
20	Pinkett, Allen	RB	5-9	192	25	Notre Dame
30	Rozier, Mike	RB	5-10	213	28	Nebraska
98	Ruth, Mike	NT	6-2	275	25	Boston College
69	Scotts, Colin	NT	6-6	265	26	Hawaii
53	Seale, Eugene	LB	5-10	240	25	Lamar
54	Smith, Al	LB	6-1	236	25	Utah State
99	Smith, Doug	NT	6-5	282	30	Auburn
70	Steinkuhler, Dean	T	6-3	291	28	Nebraska
75	Stroth, Vince	T	6-4	275	29	Brigham Young
88	Verhulst, Chris	TE	6-2	249	23	Chico State
44	White, Lorenzo	RB	5-11	209	23	Michigan St.
66	Yamo, George	OL	6-2	270	32	Washington St.
68	Young, Almon	G	6-3	285	27	Bethune Cookman
7	Zendejas, Tony	PK	5-8	165	29	Nevada-Reno

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Williams, David	OT	6-4	295	Florida
2	Kozak, Scott	LB	6-2	225	Oregon
3	McDowell, Bubba	DB	6-0	195	Miami
4	Harris, Rod	WR	5-10	180	Texas A&M
5	Montgomery, Glenn	DT	6-0	270	Houston
6	Orlando, Bo	DB	5-10	174	West Virginia
7	Rogers, Tracy	LB	6-1	243	Fresno State
8	Mays, AVOID	DB	6-0	170	West Virginia
9	Mrosko, Bob	TE	6-5	260	Penn State
10	Johnson, Tracy	RB	6-0	228	Clemson
11	Snider, Brian	OT	6-3	297	West Virginia
12	Hartlieb, Chuck	QB	6-1	208	Iowa

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

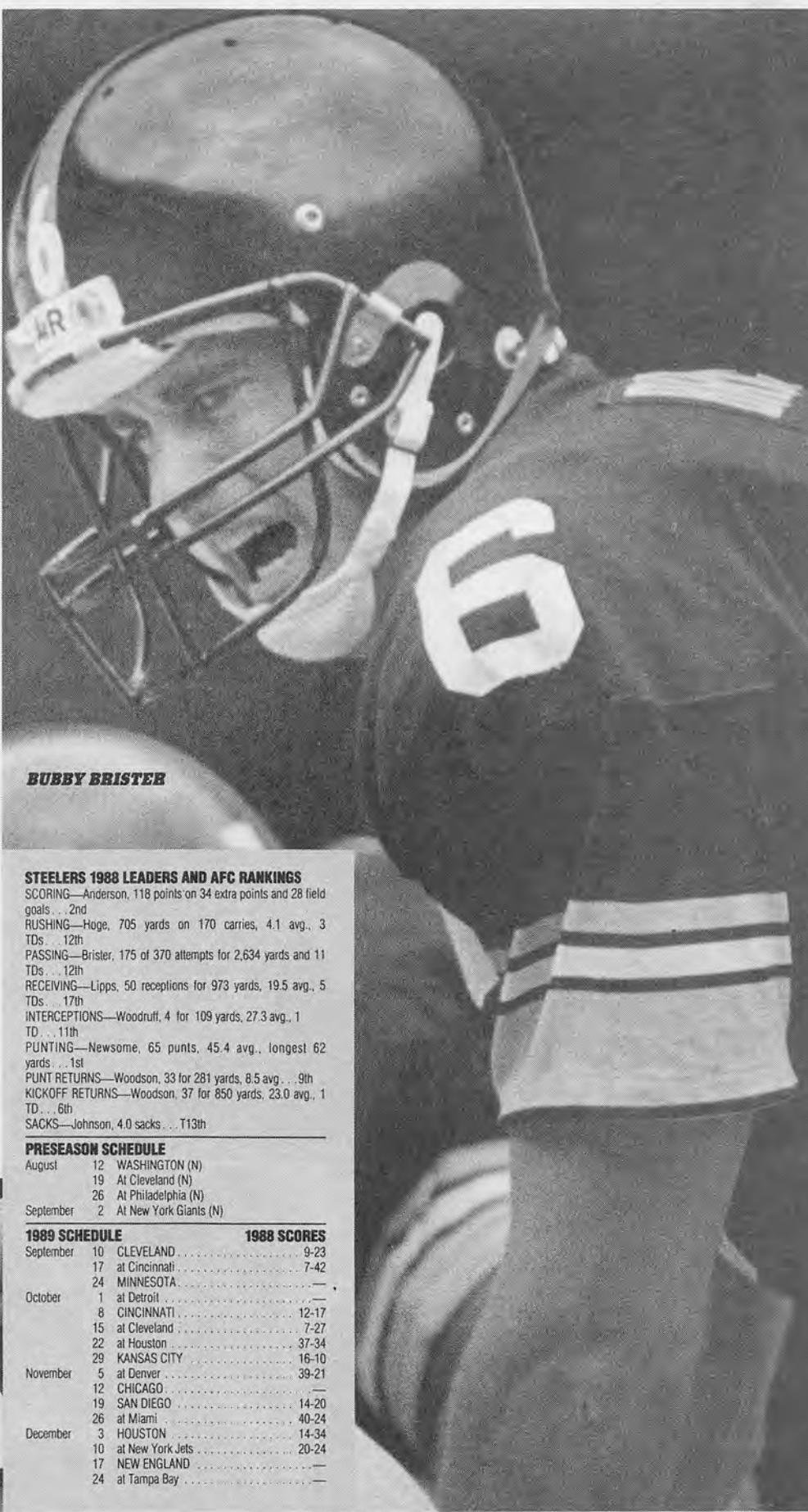
Forget the 5-11 record. Forget that it was Chuck Noll's worst season since his first, 20 years ago. The Pittsburgh Steelers have struck bottom but are on their way back up. The evidence came last December 4 in Houston's Astrodome, where the Oilers were on a 10-game winning streak. With 70 seconds to play, quarterback Bubby Brister took the Steelers 80 yards, tossing his third touchdown pass of the day to fullback Merril Hoge for a 37-34 Pittsburgh victory that killed Houston's chances to win the Central Division.

"I think you saw a future NFL star in Bubby Brister," admitted Oiler coach Jerry Glanville after the game. Brister passed for 311 yards, including long-distance touchdowns of 80 and 65 yards to Louis Lipps. But more than that, he established that the Steelers had a future with him at quarterback. In the last month of the season, Brister's first as a starter, Pittsburgh won three of its final four games.

Obviously, the Steeler renaissance may have begun with Brister, but there is far more to it than that. Noll himself contributed to the changing times when he made radical alterations in his defensive-coaching staff, bringing in Rod Rust to replace Tony Dungy. Dave Brazil, Rust's linebacker coach in Kansas City, also was hired, as was Jim Fox, the former defensive coordinator at the University of Pittsburgh, who will coach the secondary. Noll, who always identified himself as a teacher, should revel in his current role. His team resembles a college student body. Of the 22 regulars in the final game last season, 12 were first-year starters. Of the 47-man roster, 25 were in their first or second pro seasons.

Like any good teacher, Noll identifies goals. The Steelers' goals this season are represented by three numbers—19, 42, and 46.2 percent. The 19 represents Pittsburgh's sack total in 1988, the lowest in the NFL. That is at the heart of the defensive troubles. The 42 is the number of times Steeler quarterbacks were sacked, which makes the offensive line the most crucial area of 1989. The 46.2 is the team's pass-completion percentage, a figure that should be improved as Brister gets more experience. The deep passing game returned, as Lipps's health improved.

The three keys to improved offensive-line play are Dermontti Dawson, Chuck Lanza, and John Rienstra. Either Dawson or Lanza will succeed the departed Mike Webster, Pittsburgh's all-time center. Dawson, who suffered a knee injury in his opening game as a rookie, started the last four games at guard. If Lanza shows enough, Dawson could be



BUBBY BRISTER

STEELERS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Anderson, 118 points on 34 extra points and 28 field goals . . . 2nd
RUSHING—Hoge, 705 yards on 170 carries, 4.1 avg., 3 TDs . . . 12th
PASSING—Brister, 175 of 370 attempts for 2,634 yards and 11 TDs . . . 12th
RECEIVING—Lipps, 50 receptions for 973 yards, 19.5 avg., 5 TDs . . . 17th
INTERCEPTIONS—Woodruff, 4 for 109 yards, 27.3 avg., 1 TD . . . 11th
PUNTING—Newsome, 65 punts, 45.4 avg., longest 62 yards . . . 1st
PUNT RETURNS—Woodson, 33 for 281 yards, 8.5 avg. . . 9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Woodson, 37 for 850 yards, 23.0 avg., 1 TD . . . 6th
SACKS—Johnson, 4.0 sacks . . . 11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	WASHINGTON (N)
	19	At Cleveland (N)
	26	At Philadelphia (N)
September	2	At New York Giants (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

		1988 SCORES
September	10	CLEVELAND . . . 9-23
	17	at Cincinnati . . . 7-42
	24	MINNESOTA . . . —
October	1	at Detroit . . . —
	8	CINCINNATI . . . 12-17
	15	at Cleveland . . . 7-27
	22	at Houston . . . 37-34
	29	KANSAS CITY . . . 16-10
November	5	at Denver . . . 39-21
	12	CHICAGO . . . —
	19	SAN DIEGO . . . 14-20
	26	at Miami . . . 40-24
December	3	HOUSTON . . . 14-34
	10	at New York Jets . . . 20-24
	17	NEW ENGLAND . . . —
	24	at Tampa Bay . . . —



DWIGHT STONE

moved back to guard. Rienstra should be the team's best offensive lineman, but the muscular guard hasn't gone through a season without injury. He started only four games last year, suffering a broken leg and then a shoulder problem. A pair of 10-year veterans, Pro Bowler Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley, are the traditionally-undersized Steeler tackles.

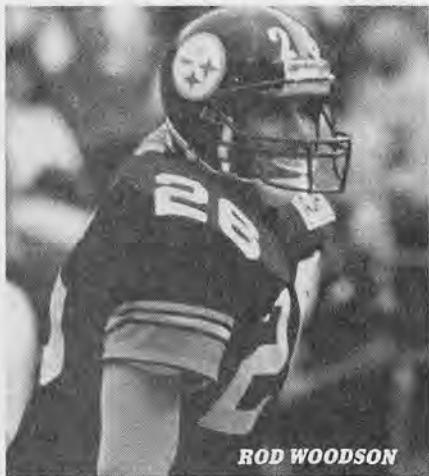
An improved completion percentage for Brister and progress in his all-round efficiency hinges largely on the effectiveness of Pittsburgh's running game. Historically, the Steeler passing attack—or, for that matter, any team's—functions best when the running game is rolling. During the six-game losing streak that took them to the bottom of the division, the Steelers failed to gain 100 yards in five of those games. Noll took major steps toward curing that on draft day when he selected Georgia's Tim Worley, the unanimous choice as the best back available, and then followed with a first-round selection of Tom Ricketts, Pitt's big offensive tackle. Worley should team with Hoge to provide a stable backfield. Hoge, who didn't become a starter until mid-season, led the team with 705 yards rushing and caught 50 passes, a record for

Pittsburgh backs, for an additional 487 yards.

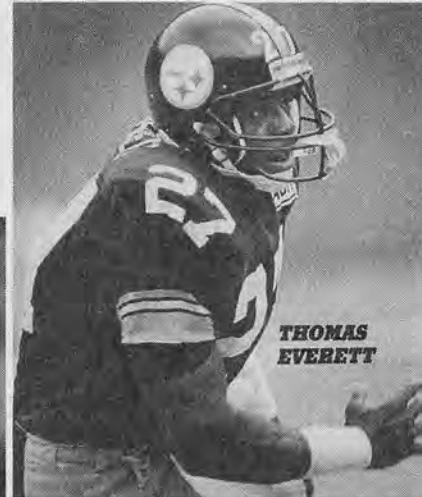
The most bothersome number is the 19. The draft choice used for Ricketts came to Pittsburgh from Minnesota in exchange for Mike Merriweather, the reluctant linebacker. Merriweather had been the Steelers' Most Valuable Player in 1987, an accomplished blitzer who reached double figures in sacks. But he sat out all of 1988 in a contract dispute. When Noll gave up on bringing him back, the only chance to improve the pass rush fell to the development of the young defensive line. End Aaron Jones, last year's top draftee, now is the major project of line coach Joe Greene. The defensive line contributed only 10½ sacks a year ago and that must be pumped up. If Jones develops quickly and Keith Willis makes a successful comeback from the neck surgery that caused him to miss the season, the picture could improve rapidly. Gerald Williams won the nose-tackle job and started every game. He should become a fixture.

The inside defense is fairly strong, mostly because inside linebackers David Little and Hardy Nickerson are big contributors. Little led the team in tackles for the third time in the last four years and was voted the co-Most Valuable Player. The Steelers think Nickerson could develop into something special. Bryan Hinkle is steady on the outside, but the other outside position should be a battle. The winner could be rookie Jerrol Williams of Purdue, once an all-state basketball player who has the athletic ability and wingspan to make him an effective pass rusher.

Rust will install the system that he used at Kansas City, where the Chiefs had the NFL's leading pass defense in 1988. Cornerback



ROD WOODSON



THOMAS EVERETT



JOHN RIENSTRA

Rod Woodson, the team's co-MVP in his first full season, could develop into an all-pro. The other corner, Dwayne Woodruff, is showing his age after 10 seasons. Free safety Thomas Everett is tough against the run and Cornell Gowdy played effectively in his first year as strong safety. Carnell Lake, UCLA's All-America linebacker, will be tried as a strong safety with blitzing possibilities.

The special-teams' work is uneven. Veteran Gary Anderson kicked 28 field goals and punter Harry Newsome led the league with a 45.4-yard average, but he had six kicks blocked. Woodson and Dwight Stone provide devastating returns. Each had a 92-yard touchdown. Woodson averaged 8.5 yards as the punt returner. The coverage is spotty.

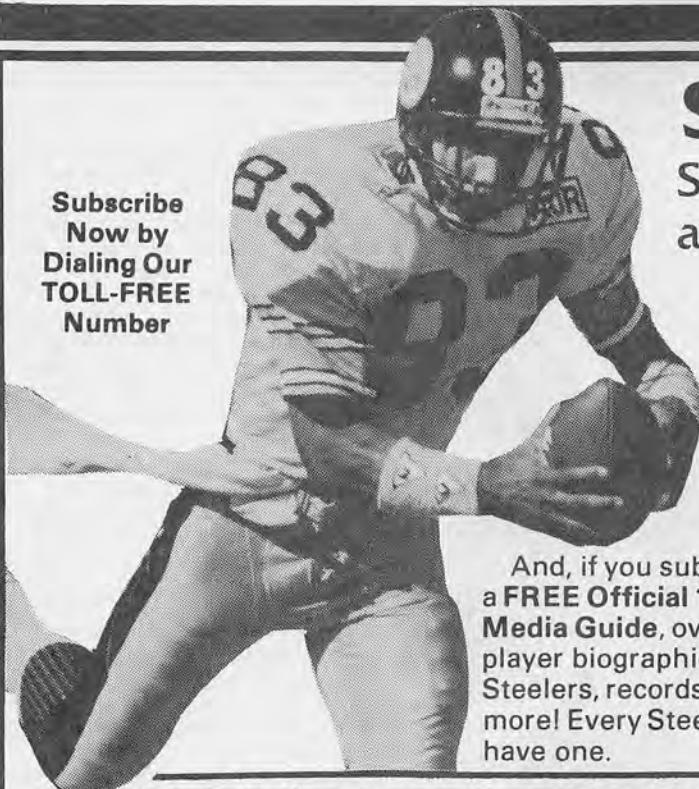
STEELERS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1 Anderson, Gary	PK	5-11	175	30	Syracuse
72 Aydelotte, Buddy	OT	6-4	262	33	Alabama
14 Blackledge, Todd	QB	6-3	227	28	Penn State
60 Blankenship, Brian	OL	6-1	275	26	Nebraska
6 Brister, Bubby	QB	6-3	205	27	NE Louisiana
91 Carr, Gregg	LB	6-2	222	27	Auburn
24 Carter, Rodney	RB	6-0	216	25	Purdue
Davis, Elgin	RB	5-10	192	24	Central Florida
63 Dawson, Demontti	OL	6-2	271	24	Kentucky
27 Everett, Thomas	FS	5-9	179	25	Baylor
68 Freeman, Lorenzo	DT	6-5	298	25	Pittsburgh
92 Gary, Keith	DE	6-3	268	30	Oklahoma
86 Gohard, Preslon	TE	6-4	235	27	Alabama
29 Gowdy, Cornell	SS	6-1	202	26	Morgan St.
22 Griffin, Larry	DB	6-0	200	26	North Carolina
35 Hall, Delton	DB	6-1	205	24	Clemson
53 Hinkle, Bryan	LB	6-2	222	30	Oregon
81 Hinnant, Mike	TE	6-3	258	23	Temple
33 Hoge, Merrill	RB	6-2	226	24	Idaho St.
62 Ilkin, Tunch	OT	6-3	266	32	Indiana St.
65 Jackson, John	OT	6-6	282	24	Eastern Kentucky
Johnson, Jason	WR	5-11	180	24	Illinois St.
78 Johnson, Tim	DL	6-3	261	24	Penn State
85 Johnson, Troy	WR	6-1	185	27	Southern
97 Jones, Aaron	DE	6-5	257	23	Eastern Kentucky
55 Jordan, Darlin	LB	6-1	235	25	Northeastern
51 Lanza, Chuck	C	6-2	263	25	Notre Dame
21 Lee, Greg	CB	6-1	207	24	Arkansas St.
83 Lips, Louis	WR	5-10	190	27	Southern Miss.
50 Little, David	LB	6-1	230	30	Florida
95 Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-2	224	24	Fort Valley St.
89 Lockett, Charles	WR	6-0	181	24	Long Beach St.
74 Long, Terry	G	5-11	275	30	East Carolina
Martin, Tracy	WR	6-3	205	25	North Dakota
Mularek, Mike	TE	6-4	240	28	Florida
18 Newsome, Harry	P	6-0	188	26	Wake Forest
54 Nickerson, Hardy	LB	6-2	229	24	California
76 Putzier, Rollin	DT	6-4	281	24	Oregon
64 Reese, Jerry	DE	6-2	267	25	Kentucky
Richard, Gary	DB	5-10	176	24	Pittsburgh
79 Rienstra, John	G	6-5	268	26	Temple
Smith, Vinson	LB	6-2	230	24	East Carolina
86 Siedman, Troy	LB	6-3	243	24	Washburn
20 Stone, Dwight	RB	6-0	188	25	Middle Tenn.
90 Stowe, Tyrone	LB	6-1	236	24	Rutgers
7 Strom, Rick	QB	6-2	210	24	Georgia Tech
87 Thompson, Weegie	WR	6-6	216	28	Florida St.
Wallace, Ray	RB	6-0	230	26	Purdue
98 Williams, Gerald	DT	6-3	268	26	Auburn
42 Williams, Warren	RB	6-0	202	24	Miami
93 Willis, Keith	DE	6-1	263	30	Northeastern
73 Wolley, Craig	OL	6-1	269	31	Syracuse
49 Woodruff, Dwayne	CB	6-0	198	32	Louisville
26 Woodson, Rod	CB	6-0	199	24	Purdue

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Worley, Tim	RB	6-2	215	Georgia
1	Ricketts, Tom	OT	6-4	300	Pittsburgh
2	Lake, Camell	S	6-0	205	UCLA
3	Hill, Derek	WR	6-1	190	Arizona
4	Williams, Jerrol	LB	6-4	240	Purdue
5	Arnold, David	S	6-2	200	Michigan
6	Stock, Mark	WR	5-11	180	VMI
7	Johnson, David	DB	6-0	185	Kentucky
8	Asbeck, Chris	NT	6-2	255	Cincinnati
9	Jenkins, A.J.	DE	6-1	235	Fullerton St.
10	Olsavsky, Jerry	LB	6-1	220	Pittsburgh
11	Slater, Brian	WR	6-4	201	Washington
12	Hasehir, Carlton	DE	6-1	275	Pitt-Johnstown

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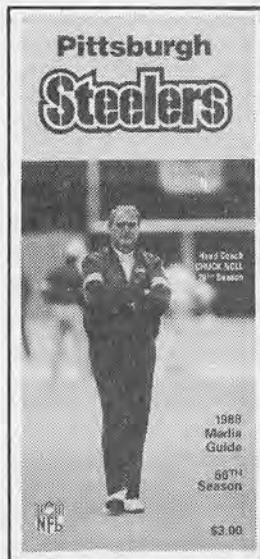
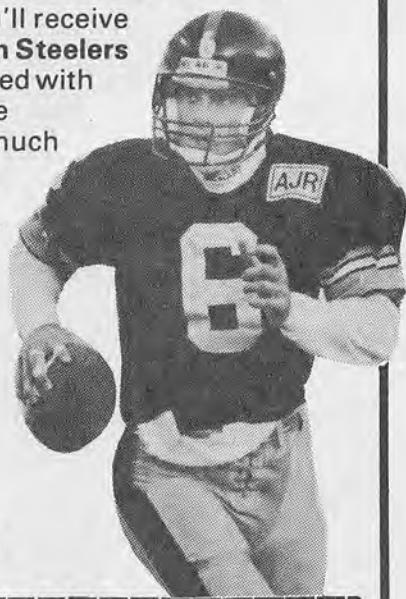
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BERNIE KOSAR

BROWNS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Bahr, 104 points on 32 extra points and 24 field goals...T6
 RUISHING—Byner, 576 yards on 157 carries, 3.7 avg., 3 TDs...15th
 PASSING—Kosar, 156 of 259 attempts for 1,890 yards and 10 TDs...4th
 RECEIVING—Byner, 59 receptions for 576 yards, 9.8 avg., 2 TDs...9th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Wright, 5 for 126 yards, 25.2 avg...7th
 PUNTING—Runager, 49 punts, 40.0 avg., longest 52 yards...9th
 PUNT RETURNS—McNeil, 38 for 315 yards, 8.3 avg...10th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Young, 29 for 635 yards, 21.9 avg...8th
 SACKS—Matthews, 6.0 sacks...T9th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	6	Philadelphia at London, England
	12	At Detroit (N)
	19	PITTSBURGH (N)
	26	At Phoenix (N)
September	2	TAMPA BAY (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

		1988 SCORES
September	10	at Pittsburgh 23-9
	17	NEW YORK JETS 3-23
	25	at Cincinnati (N) 17-24
October	1	DENVER 7-30
	8	at Miami 31-38
	15	PITTSBURGH 27-7
	23	CHICAGO (N) —
	29	HOUSTON 28-23
November	5	at Tampa Bay —
	12	at Seattle 10-16
	19	KANSAS CITY —
	23	at Detroit 6-3
December	3	CINCINNATI 23-16
	10	at Indianapolis 23-17
	17	MINNESOTA —
	23	at Houston (N) 17-24

CLEVELAND BROWNS

The Browns are in a fragile situation. They hacked their way through the 1988 season after Bernie Kosar and two other quarterbacks were injured. They won four of their last five games to finish 10-6, then lost by a point to a tough Houston team in the playoffs. Two days after Christmas, Marty Schottenheimer, who steered the Browns to five straight playoff appearances and seemed sure to lead them for a football generation, resigned. Owner Art Modell didn't try hard to stop him.

The massive changes in the Browns may have been born in frustration. Bud Carson, at an age when many football coaches are preparing to retire, begins his NFL head-coaching career with a mandate from Modell to overtake Cincinnati and Houston. The defense is being rearranged and a significant portion of the offense may be decaying. That is not the formula for continued success in a division as competitive as the AFC Central.

There is a lot riding on Carson, 58, who coached defense on a half dozen NFL teams since 1972. Ever since he helped construct the Pittsburgh Steel Curtain in the early '70s, he has been identified as a defensive guru who did things his way. But being a head coach is something else. Carson hired some interesting and controversial assistants, including receivers coach Lionel Taylor, running-backs coach George Sefcik, defensive line coach John Teerlinck, defensive backfield coach Jed Hughes, special-teams coordinator Paul Lanham, defensive coordinator Dan Radakovich, and offensive coordinator Marc Trestman.

Radakovich, the legendary "Mad Rad" of coaching, was miffed when the Jets didn't promote him from line coach to offensive coordinator to succeed Carson and left to rejoin Bud. Carson may hold off switching to his beloved 3-4 defense until he has the proper material, but whatever he plans to do, Radakovich is the ideal first lieutenant.

The most controversial appointment is Trestman, the team's quarterback coach under Schottenheimer. Trestman was Miami's quarterback coach when Bernie Kosar led the Hurricanes to the national championship in 1983. There is a feeling around the NFL that pupil will dominate teacher, and that Kosar's powerful personality will lead him to become the offensive coordinator without portfolio.

The offense was in need of new blood. The Browns would have been whistling past the football graveyard by committing to veteran tight end Ozzie Newsome, who enters his 12th pro season, often at a walk. There wasn't much explosion from the running backs, either, since Earnest Byner, one of the league's most honest performers, had taken so many hits and sacrificed his body on so many occasions. The offensive line needs to protect Kosar much better, too.

Only once did the Browns score more than 30 points in a game last season, and that was in a 38-31 loss to Miami. Cleveland's schtick is consistency. Kosar can be counted on to come up with the big plays at the appropriate times, usually collaborating with speedy wide receivers Reggie Langhorne and Webster Slaughter. Now, more than ever, the pre-eminent figure in the Browns' football operation is Kosar. He was hurt twice last season. He missed the playoff loss to the Oilers. Despite the elbow and knee woes, Kosar won twice as

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BROWNS

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THE 1989 CHALLENGE

THE BATTLE TO RETURN
TO THE TOP OF THE
AFC CENTRAL BEGINS

- COACH CARSON AND HIS STAFF ANALYZED
- OZZIE RETURNS FOR ONE MORE SEASON
- '89 SEASON PREDICTIONS

RELAXED, CONFIDENT KOSAR SET FOR ACTION

PAGE 8

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If you want excitement during the off-season . . . you really have it this year. After winning three consecutive AFC Central titles and back-to-back seasons of being a heartbeat away from the Super Bowl, the Browns slid back a notch in '88.

It's now time for a new era to begin . . . but, let's remember one thing . . . THE BROWNS ARE NOT STARTING OVER.

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much as he lost, 6-3, which usually is the case. He is 26-11 in the last three seasons.

In addition to Kosar, the Browns need to stay healthy overall on offense. Last year three key players—Kosar, Slaughter, and fullback Kevin Mack—played only one quarter together. That was in the opening game of the season. Mack, Pro Bowl-caliber when he is healthy, missed all or part of 10 games with injuries to his neck, shoulder, calf, and knee. Playing hurt against the Oilers in the playoff game, he averaged just 1.2 yards on 14 carries. His recovery is essential.

Cleveland made some moves on draft day to give the offense a fresh look. The Browns traded up to acquire Eric Metcalf, the Texas running back who is the son of the Cardinals' long-time star back, Terry Metcalf. They see a lot of Cincinnati's James Brooks in Metcalf. Then they sent their 1990 first-round choice to Green Bay so they could select Lawyer Tillman, Auburn's big wide receiver, on the second round. Tillman will be switched to tight end, where the Browns hope he will become a young Newsome. Metcalf may be asked to carry an immediate load. Byner, the Browns' leading ground gainer and leading pass receiver last year, was traded to Washington for Mike Oliphant, a swift but untested running back. Herman Fontenot, another experienced back, went to Green Bay in the deal that brought Tillman. The Browns are much stronger at fullback with Mack and Tim Manoa.

Considering that Kosar was hurt twice, that backup quarterback Mike Pagel suffered a shoulder separation, that the departed Gary Danielson had his ankle broken, and that Cleveland quarterbacks were sacked 36

times, changes in the offensive line would not be a surprise. Three players—center Gregg Rackoczy, guard Dan Fike, and tackle Cody Risien—started every game. Ted Banker, who started eight games at guard for the Jets, and center Tom Baugh, who started 10 for Kansas City, were signed as free agents.

Strange things are happening to the defensive front seven. The only returning starter is Carl Hairston, the 14-year end. Sam Clancy signed with Indianapolis and nose tackle Bob Golic with the Raiders. Al Baker, signed as a free agent off Minnesota's unprotected roster, returns to Cleveland. The future rests with Michael Dean Perry and Charles Buchanan. Linebacker Mike Junkin, an expensive draft mistake two years ago, was dealt, cheaply, to Kansas City. But the unit still has four-time Pro Bowler Clay Matthews, plus run-stuffer Mike Johnson, speedy David Grayson, and Eddie Johnson. Barry Krauss, an 11-year veteran, was signed from Indianapolis's list.

The defensive strength is the secondary, especially Pro Bowl corners Frank Minnifield and Hanford Dixon. Free safety Felix Wright had five interceptions during the season and two more in the playoff loss to the Oilers. Brian Washington started as a rookie at strong safety. The Browns didn't give up a touchdown pass in the first seven games.

The kicking game may have been strengthened with the signing of Bears' punter Bryan Wagner, who averaged 41.5 yards and dropped 18 kicks inside the 20-yard line. Matt Bahr was 27-for-32 in his field-goal attempts, including 3-for-3 in the playoffs. The kickoff coverage is among the NFL's best.

BROWNS VETERANS ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
9	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	175	33	Penn State
60	Baker, Al	DE	6-6	280	33	Colorado St.
43	Baker, Tony	RB	5-10	180	25	East Carolina
68	Banker, Ted	G	6-2	275	28	SE Missouri
64	Baugh, Tom	C	6-3	290	26	Southern Illinois
87	Birden, J. J.	WR	5-9	160	24	Oregon
24	Blaylock, Anthony	CB	5-11	190	24	Winston-Salem
77	Borden, Rickey	OT	6-4	280	28	SMU
36	Braggs, Stephen	CB	5-10	180	24	Texas
86	Brennan, Brian	WR	5-9	178	27	Boston College
72	Buchanan, Charles	DE	6-3	245	25	Tennessee St.
83	Butler, Ray	WR	6-3	203	33	Southern Cal
58	Charlton, Clifford	LB	6-3	240	24	Florida
25	Collins, Patrick	RB	5-9	188	23	Oklahoma
17	Crawford, Derrick	WR	5-10	185	29	Memphis St.
52	Dean, Kevin	LB	6-2	226	24	TCU
29	Dixon, Hanford	CB	5-11	195	31	Southern Miss.
65	Fahn, Donava	OT	6-4	270	25	B-Cookman
74	Farrin, Paul	OL	6-6	280	29	Boston U.
69	Fike, Dan	OG	6-7	280	28	Florida
30	Gash, Thane	S	6-0	200	24	East Tenn St.
39	Glenn, Kerry	CB	5-9	175	27	Minnesota
56	Grayson, David	LB	6-2	230	25	Fresno St.
33	Grooms, Greg	RB	6-2	195	25	Richmond
78	Hairston, Carl	DE	6-2	280	37	Maryland E. Shore
23	Harper, Mark	CB	5-9	185	28	Alcorn State
35	Hill, Will	S	6-0	200	26	Bishop College
94	Hines, John	DE	6-3	256	23	Alabama St.
98	Jackson, Artis	DT	6-5	280	24	Texas Tech
51	Johnson, Eddie	LB	6-1	225	30	Louisville
59	Johnson, Mike	LB	6-1	225	27	Virginia Tech
26	Jones, Keith	RB	5-10	182	23	Nebraska
95	Jones, Marlon	DE	6-4	260	25	Central St. (OK)
66	Jones, Tony	OT	6-5	280	23	Western Carolina
19	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6-5	210	26	Miami
55	Krauss, Barry	LB	6-3	255	32	Alabama
88	Langhorne, Reggie	WR	6-2	206	26	Elizabeth City St.
34	Mack, Kevin	FB	6-0	235	27	Clemson
42	Manoa, Tim	FB	6-1	227	25	Penn State
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	245	33	Southern Cal
54	McGowan, Paul	LB	6-0	230	23	Florida St.
89	McNeil, Gerald	WR	5-7	147	27	Baylor
31	Minnifield, Frank	CB	5-9	185	29	Louisville
82	Newsome, Ozzie	TE	6-2	232	33	Alabama
7	Norseth, Mike	QB	6-2	200	25	Kansas
28	Oliphant, Mike	RB	5-10	183	26	Puget Sound
10	Pagel, Mike	QB	6-2	211	29	Arizona St.
37	Patton, Gary	RB	5-9	190	23	Eastern Michigan
71	Perkins, Ray	DE	6-6	255	24	Virginia
92	Perry, Michael Dean	DE	6-0	285	24	Clemson
75	Pike, Chris	DL	6-8	301	25	Tulsa
73	Rakoczy, Gregg	C	6-6	290	24	Miami
63	Risien, Cody	OT	6-7	280	32	Texas A&M
99	Sims, Darryl	DE	6-3	290	28	Wisconsin
84	Slaughter, Webster	WR	6-0	170	25	San Diego St.
62	Sorells, Tyrone	G	6-3	275	26	Georgia Tech
12	Strock, Don	QB	6-5	220	39	Virginia Tech
2	Stryzinski, Dan	P	6-1	195	24	Indiana
38	Swarn, George	RB	5-11	220	25	Indiana (OH)
49	Teague, Pat	LB	6-1	230	26	N.C. State
81	Tennell, Derek	TE	6-5	245	25	UCLA
80	Usher, Darryl	WR	5-8	170	24	Illinois
15	Wagner, Bryan	P	6-2	200	27	Northridge St.
50	Walters, Van	LB	6-4	240	24	Indiana
48	Washington, Brian	S	6-0	210	24	Nebraska
27	Wilson, Teddy	WR	5-9	170	25	Central Florida
1	Woods, Chris	WR	5-11	190	27	Auburn
22	Wright, Felix	S	6-2	190	30	Drake

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Metcalf, Eric	RB	5-9	180	Texas
2	Tillman, Lawyer	WR	6-4	225	Auburn
4	Stewart, Andrew	DE	6-4	260	Cincinnati
5	Kramer, Kyle	S	6-2	175	Bowling Green
5	Joines, Vernon	WR	6-1	195	Maryland
6	Wilkerson, Gary	DB	6-0	180	Penn State
7	Graybill, Mike	OT	6-7	255	Boston University
8	Aelts, Rick	TE	6-4	245	SE Missouri St.
10	Buddenberg, John	OT	6-5	270	Akron
11	Plock, Dan	PK	5-7	177	Maryland
12	Brown, Marlon	LB	6-4	224	Memphis State

AFCwest



CHIEFS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lowery, 104 points on 23 extra points and 27 field goals...T6
RUSHING—Okoye, 473 yards on 105 carries, 4.5 avg., 3 TDs...21st
PASSING—DeBerg, 224 of 414 attempts for 2,935 yards and 16 TDs...8th
RECEIVING—Paige, 61 receptions for 902 yards, 14.8 avg., 7 TDs...7th
INTERCEPTIONS—Cherry, 7 for 51 yards, 7.3 avg...5th
PUNTING—Goodburn, 76 punts, 40.3 avg., longest 59 yards...8th
PUNT RETURNS—Taylor, 29 for 187 yards, 6.4 avg...11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Palmer, 23 for 354 yards, 15.8 avg...17th
SACKS—Maas, 4.0 sacks...T13th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	Minnesota at Memphis, TN (N)
	20	NEW YORK GIANTS (N)
	27	Al Chicago (N)

September 1 NEW YORK JETS (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

		1988 SCORES	
September	10	at Denver	11-17
	17	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	17-27
	24	at San Diego	13-24
October	1	CINCINNATI	31-28
	8	at Seattle	10-31
	15	at Los Angeles Raiders	10-17
	22	DALLAS	—
	29	at Pittsburgh	10-16
November	5	SEATTLE	27-24
	12	DENVER	20-13
	19	at Cleveland	3-6
	26	HOUSTON	6-7
December	3	MIAMI	—
	10	at Green Bay	—
	17	SAN DIEGO	23-24
	24	at Miami	—

CHRISTIAN OKOYE

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The editorial page of the *Kansas City Star* usually confines its comments to more cosmic subjects: Star Wars, political campaigns, the midwest drought. But last November, disgusted by the performance of the local NFL team, the *Star* turned its attention to the Chiefs:

"Are the Kansas City Chiefs deliberately trying to lose so they'll stop attracting crowds to Arrowhead and be able to move more easily to another city in 1997? Surely not. But what else explains such an extended run of incompetence?"

The editorial may not have set changes into motion, but surely its sting influenced the thinking of Chiefs' owner Lamar Hunt. By the

time the team finished its dismal 4-11-1 season, Hunt had made his decisions. Frank Gansz was fired as coach, but that was expected, since the Chiefs regularly fire their coaches, even those making progress, such as John Mackovic and Marv Levy. More significantly, Hunt finally understood that the Chiefs' troubles were more deeply rooted. Gone are the team's long-time front-office powers: president Jack Steadman and general manager Jim Schaaf.

Carl Peterson, who built the Philadelphia Stars, the most successful team in the now-defunct USFL, is the new man in charge. Hunt gave him the titles of president, general manager, and chief operating officer. In Gansz's place is Marty Schottenheimer, who in four seasons as coach of the Cleveland Browns produced four playoff teams, three division titles, two AFC championship appearances, and won the consensus 1986 AFC coach of the year award. Over the last three years he had the best won-lost record among all AFC coaches. He made the mistake of having three of his quarterbacks hurt last season and then losing to Houston by one point in the playoffs. The combination of frustration by Cleveland owner Art Modell and some stubbornness on Schottenheimer's part made him available to the Chiefs.

Turning over a new leaf doesn't necessarily translate into a winning team, but the difference in this case is that there is a lot of talent on the Chiefs' roster. On consecutive Sundays in mid-November, Kansas City upset division champions Cincinnati and Seattle. Seven of the losses were by margins of seven points or less. The Chiefs led the NFL in pass defense. Schottenheimer is even pleased with Steve DeBerg, the quarterback he inherited.

The priority tasks of the new coaching staff are obvious. The Chiefs neither run the ball well nor stop the run adequately. The ingredients for an effective running attack are there. Christian Okoye, the huge fullback, averaged 4.5 yards per carry, but he carried the ball only 105 times due to a broken right thumb, a back injury, and a fractured right hand. Paul Palmer was on Gansz's negative list and was suspended in a controversial move that backfired on the coach. Palmer led the team with 134 carries, averaging 3.4 yards. The possibilities are much greater, particularly since Okoye and Palmer have skills similar to the backs Schottenheimer used so effectively in Cleveland's running attack. Palmer's pass-receiving talents add an extra dimension.

There is far better material in this offensive line than there was in Cleveland's when Schottenheimer took over. There is size and experience at every position with John Alt and

Irv Eatman at the tackles, Mark Adickes and Rich Baldinger at the guards, and Gerry Feehery at center. Howard Mudd, the new line coach, will make special projects of the underachieving Eatman and huge reserve Brian Jozwiak, who hasn't justified his high draft status in three pro seasons. The run-blocking potential of this crew is obvious, but there also is evidence that there could be a major improvement in pass protection, too. Once Feehery got into the starting lineup late in the year, the Chiefs allowed only one sack in four games, going three consecutive games without yielding a sack for the first time in franchise history. "If they keep playing like that," said DeBerg, "I'll be able to keep playing a lot longer."

The passing attack produced most of the Chiefs' punch last year. DeBerg threw for 2,935 yards and 16 touchdowns. Stephone Paige caught 61 passes and scored seven touchdowns. Carlos Carson averaged 15.5 yards on his 46 catches. Palmer had three 100-yard games as a receiver and had 53

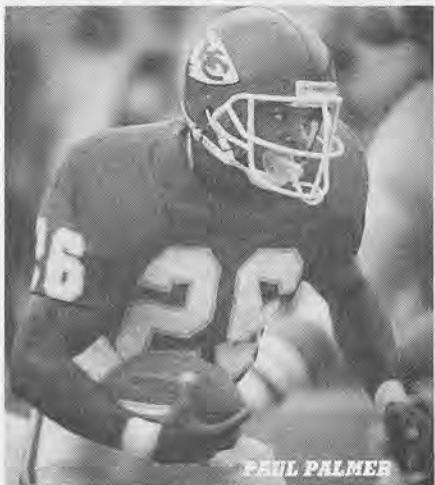
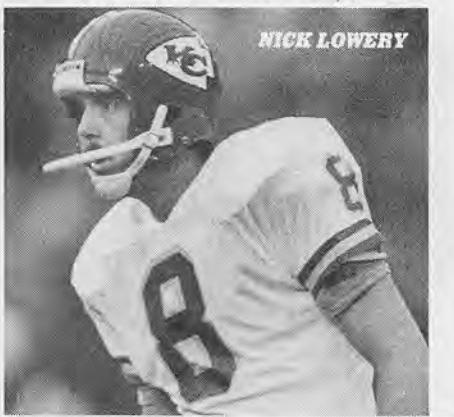
linebacker Derrick Thomas. The addition of Thomas, plus the recovery of Pro Bowl nose tackle Bills Maas, who missed the last half of the season after arthroscopic surgery on his knee, and the development of end Neil Smith could improve the run defense enormously. Smith, last year's touted No. 1 draftee, had a disappointing season even though he started seven games. The pass rush was one of the least effective in the league. Maas led the team with four sacks in limited action. Next best was linebacker Tim Cofield, who was signed by the New York Jets as a free agent. The picture could change if Thomas makes an explosive debut and Smith finally develops.

There are other quality players on the defense, notably outside linebacker Dino Hackett, Pro Bowl cornerback Albert Lewis, cornerback Kevin Ross, and free safety Deron Cherry, who went to his sixth straight Pro Bowl. Add strong safety Lloyd Burruss to that list if he recovers from knee and shoulder injuries. The puzzle is veteran end Mike Bell, whose further adventures with substance abuse cost him a 30-day suspension late in the season.

Kansas City's special teams are famous, but after scoring 10 touchdowns in the previous two seasons, they didn't score any last year. The kickoff coverage was the worst in the league and the return unit averaged just 16.5 yards, the lowest in the history of the franchise. Place-kicker Nick Lowery is still



STEPHONE PAIGE



PAUL PALMER



catches. The draft brings an exciting new receiver, Naz Worthen of North Carolina State, who is being compared to Ernest Givins of the Houston Oilers. The Chiefs also bought an insurance policy quarterback, veteran Ron Jaworski, in the free-agent market and drafted their quarterback of the future in the unpolished Mike Elkins of Wake Forest.

The Chiefs' first major step toward improving their rushing defense, which ranked them last in the NFL, was drafting Alabama's super

among the NFL's elite. He had 27 field goals and won the Cincinnati and Seattle games with 39- and 40-yarders in the last minute of play. Punter Kelly Goodburn averaged 40.3 yards but his net average, 31.9, was among the NFL's lowest.

CHIEFS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
30	Abraham, Gerald	RB	5-10	207	23	Wyoming
61	Adickes, Mark	G	6-4	273	27	Baylor
76	All, John	T	6-7	290	26	Iowa
68	Annestad, Scott	G	6-4	285	24	Mankato St.
54	Ashley, Walker Lee	ILB	6-0	230	26	Penn St.
82	Aziz, Abdur-Ra'ool	WR	6-0	197	24	Maryland
77	Baldinger, Rich	OL	6-4	285	29	Wake Forest
99	Bell, Mike	DE	6-4	260	31	Colorado St.
34	Burruss, Lloyd	SS	6-0	205	31	Maryland
88	Carson, Carlos	WR	5-11	190	30	LSU
89	Chandler, Darren	WR	5-9	163	23	Ga. Southern
20	Cherry, Deron	FS	5-11	203	29	Rutgers
62	Chilton, Gene	C	6-3	271	25	Texas
51	Cooper, George	LB	6-2	225	30	Michigan St.
55	Cooker, Louis	OLB	6-2	245	25	W. Carolina
17	DeBerg, Steve	QB	6-3	210	35	San Jose State
50	Del Rio, Jack	LB	6-4	238	26	Southern Cal
65	DeGiocomo, Curt	OL	6-4	265	24	Arizona
93	Dressel, Chris	TE	6-4	245	28	Stanford
75	Eatman, Irv	T	6-7	294	28	UCLA
64	Feehery, Gerry	C	6-2	270	29	Syracuse
22	Gamble, Kenny	RB	5-10	197	24	Colgate
2	Goodburn, Kelly	P	6-2	198	27	Emporia St.
98	Griffin, Leonard	DE	6-4	270	26	Grambling
58	Griggs, Anthony	LB	6-3	230	29	Ohio State
81	Griggs, Billy	TE	6-3	230	26	Virginia
56	Hackett, Dino	ILB	6-3	228	24	Appalachian St.
86	Harry, Emile	WR	5-11	176	26	Stanford
85	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	239	26	Iowa
44	Heard, Herman	RB	5-10	190	27	So. Colorado
23	Hill, Greg	CB	6-1	202	28	Oklahoma State
60	Ingram, Byron	G	6-2	295	24	Eastern Kentucky
7	Jaworski, Ron	QB	6-1	205	38	Youngstown St.
73	Jozwiak, Brian	G	6-5	293	25	West Virginia
39	Kelleher, Tom	FB	6-0	230	23	Holy Cross
9	Kenny, Bill	QB	6-4	217	34	No. Colorado
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	198	28	Grambling
8	Lowery, Nick	PK	6-4	189	32	Dartmouth
71	Lucas, Jeff	T	6-7	282	24	West Virginia
72	Lutz, David	T	6-6	290	29	Georgia Tech
63	Maas, Bill	NT	6-5	268	27	Pittsburgh
84	Marshall, Willie	WR	6-1	190	24	Temple
57	Martin, Chris	OLB	6-2	231	28	Auburn
92	McCabe, Jerry	ILB	6-1	225	24	Holy Cross
14	McManus, Danny	QB	6-0	200	23	Florida St.
69	Meisner, Greg	NT	6-3	269	30	Pittsburgh
35	Okoya, Christian	RB	6-1	253	27	Azusa Pacific
83	Paige, Stephone	WR	6-2	185	27	Fresno State
26	Palmer, Paul	RB	5-9	181	24	Temple
96	Pearson, Aaron	ILB	6-0	240	24	Mississippi St.
24	Pearson, Jayice	CB	5-11	190	25	Washington
66	Phillips, Jon	G	6-3	280	23	Oklahoma
27	Porter, Kevin	DB	5-10	215	23	Auburn
87	Roberts, Alfredo	TE	6-3	250	24	Miami
31	Ross, Kevin	CB	5-9	182	27	Temple
4	Runager, Max	P	6-1	189	33	South Carolina
97	Saleaumua, Dan	NT	6-0	285	24	Arizona St.
70	Sally, Jerome	NT	6-3	270	30	Missouri
21	Saxon, James	RB	5-11	215	23	San Jose St.
51	Scully, Mike	OL	6-5	280	23	Illinois
11	Slayden, Steve	QB	6-1	185	23	Duke
90	Smith, Neil	DE	6-4	270	23	Nebraska
52	Snipes, Angelo	LB	6-0	227	26	West Georgia
79	Standifer, Bob	DT	6-5	267	25	UT-Chattanooga
67	Stensrud, Mike	NT	6-5	280	33	Iowa State
6	Tabor, Scott	P	6-3	195	23	California
74	Van Druten, Richard	T	6-5	281	26	Abilene Christian
94	Watts, Randy	DE	6-6	279	25	Calabria
53	Webster, Mike	C	6-2	260	36	Wisconsin

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Thomas, Derrick	LB	6-3	230	Alabama
2	Elkins, Mike	QB	6-2	220	Wake Forest
3	Worthen, Nasrallah	WR	5-8	175	NC State
4	Petry, Stanley	CB	5-11	165	TCU
6	Thomas, Robb	WR	5-10	175	Oregon St.
7	Sancho, Ron	LB	6-2	225	LSU
8	Tobey, Bryan	RB	6-1	250	Grambling
8	McNair, Todd	RB	6-0	190	Temple
9	Phillips, Jack	DB	6-0	200	Alcorn St.
10	McGovern, Rob	LB	6-2	222	Holy Cross
11	Turner, Marcus	DB	6-0	190	UCLA
12	Jones, Bill	RB	5-11	222	SW Texas St.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

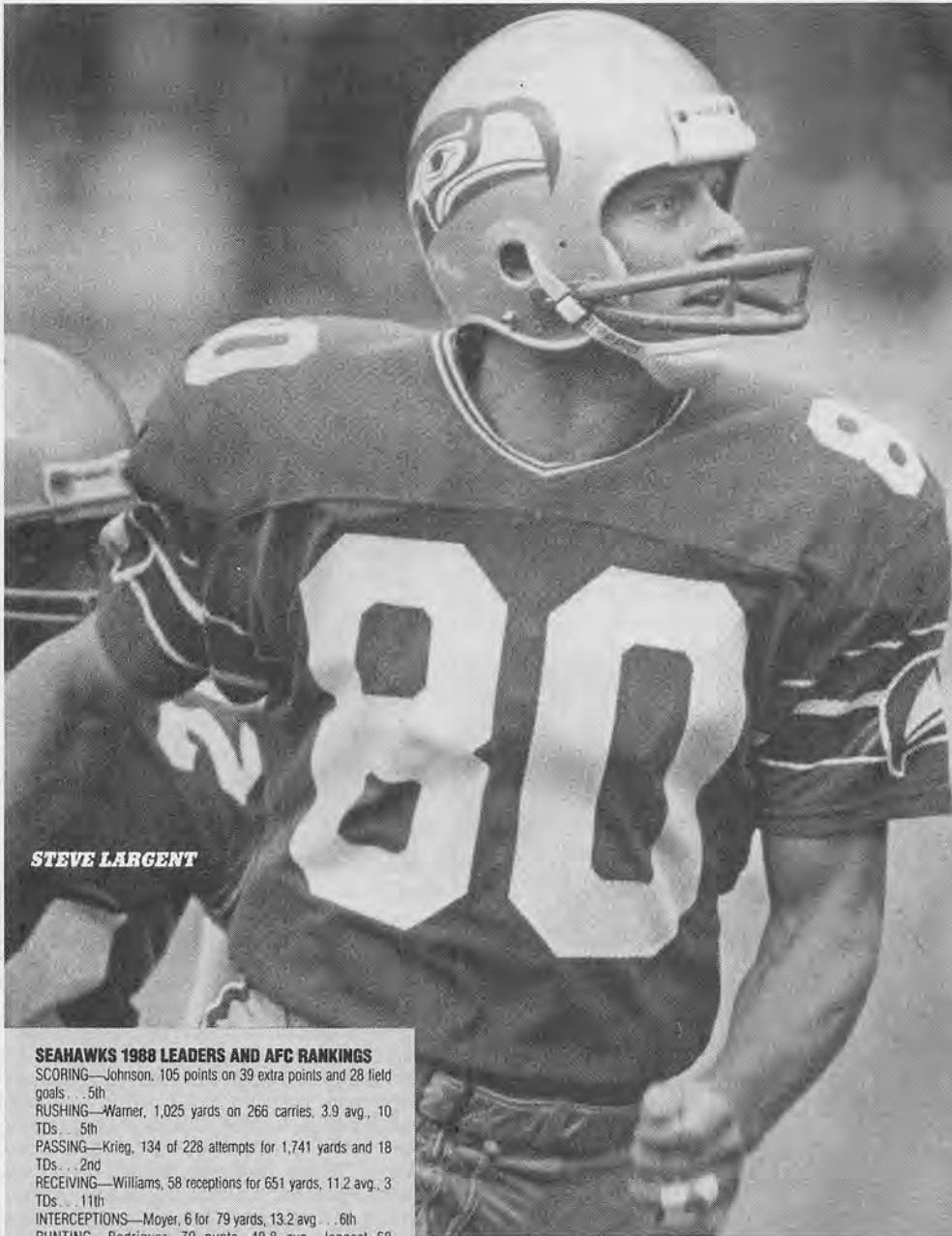
When they talk about a football team "having the right chemistry," it doesn't just mean that the ball carriers mesh with the offensive linemen and the outside linebackers are choreographed to the movements of the defensive ends. There is a chemistry within entire organizations, too. That is why the rest of the NFL is watching the Seattle Seahawks so closely. In a matter of days last season, the ownership of the Seahawks shifted from one of the most self-effacing in professional sports to one of the most flamboyant. The Nordstrom family, the former principal owners, wouldn't even allow themselves to be listed in the team's media guide. The new man, California real estate developer Ken Behring, does everything but set himself afire along the Seattle sideline. He is a self-admitted "playing owner."

The former general manager, Mike McCormack, was a long-time coach who got along well with Chuck Knox, the head coach. Behring jettisoned McCormack and brought in his friend, Tom Flores, as GM. Flores coached the Raiders to two Super Bowl victories and is highly respected professionally and personally. But whether he will hit it off with the independent Knox is something to be determined. "My job is to provide Chuck with the very best atmosphere I can and to get to the one game we all dream about," says Flores, who knows something about tact.



BRIAN BOSWORTH

The irony is that the Seahawks won their first division championship ever in 1988 and could be a stronger team this season. Seattle won with a slam-bang offense. In showdown games against Denver and the Los Angeles Raiders in the final two weeks of the season, the Seahawks scored 42 and 43 points. A notable part of that high-scoring offense was that several of the younger stars had major roles, a signal that this is transition time for the Hawks, a pleasant transition time. Fullback John Williams ran for 183 yards against Denver, then caught seven passes for 180 yards against the Raiders. Rookie wide receiver Bri-



STEVE LARGENT

SEAHAWKS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Johnson, 105 points on 39 extra points and 28 field goals...5th
RUSHING—Warner, 1,025 yards on 266 carries, 3.9 avg., 10 TDs...5th
PASSING—Krieg, 134 of 228 attempts for 1,741 yards and 18 TDs...2nd
RECEIVING—Williams, 58 receptions for 651 yards, 11.2 avg., 3 TDs...11th
INTERCEPTIONS—Moyer, 6 for 79 yards, 13.2 avg...6th
PUNTING—Rodriguez, 70 punts, 40.8 avg., longest 68 yards...7th
PUNT RETURNS—Edmonds, 35 for 340 yards, 9.7 avg...5th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Edmonds, 40 for 900 yards, 22.5 avg...7th
SACKS—Green, 9.0 sacks...14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	11	At Phoenix (N)
	19	New England Patriots at St. Louis, MO (N)
	25	DETROIT (N)
September	1	SAN FRANCISCO (N)

1989 SCHEDULE

		1989 SCORES
September	10	at Philadelphia
	17	PHOENIX
	24	at New England
October	1	Al Los Angeles Raiders
	8	KANSAS CITY
	15	at San Diego
	22	DENVER
	29	SAN DIEGO
November	5	at Kansas City
	12	CLEVELAND
	19	at New York Giants
	26	at Denver
December	4	BUFFALO (N)
	10	at Cincinnati
	17	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N)
	23	WASHINGTON

an Blades caught two touchdown passes against L.A. and had his second 100-yard game of the season.

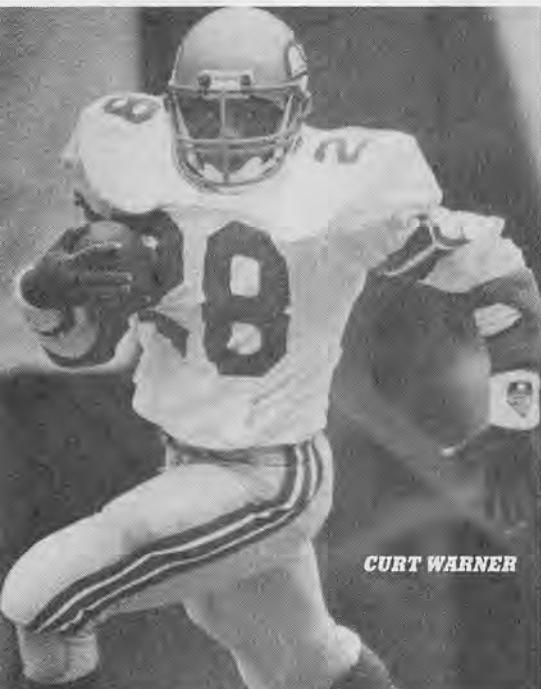
Not that the older stars are in decline. Curt Warner scored four touchdowns and ran for 126 yards against Denver. Quarterback Dave Krieg completed his first 12 passes against the Broncos, then had a 410-yard game against the Raiders. Krieg, who missed seven games with a separated shoulder, played so well upon his return that he was named to the Pro Bowl as an injury replacement.

But in the AFC West, where the balance of power is so delicate that it may shift from week to week, it's essential that the contenders keep tinkering in an effort to improve or at least stay even. Seattle's needs are to find an eventual replacement for their all-time receiver, Steve Largent, and to create a defensive answer to the running game. Largent, who turns 35 in the first month of the season, caught 39 passes and scored two touchdowns, modest figures for a future Hall of

Famer. But the Seahawks threw to him in 13 third-down situations and he converted 12 of those into first downs. The one failure came on third-and-19. His catch gained 18-yards. Even though this is likely to be his last season, the Seahawks should find Largent useful.

There may be no replacement for Largent on the horizon. Rookie Tommy Kane had a disappointing year, catching only six passes for 32 yards. Paul Skansi has been around. Veteran Ray Butler was signed by Cleveland. Consequently, Krieg may throw more to his backs and tight ends than he wants to. Williams led the team with 58 receptions, and his 11.2-yard average was high for a back. Tight end Mike Tice caught 29 passes.

Despite the deficiencies at wide receiver and in their rushing defense, the Seahawks opted to strengthen already strong areas via the draft. Notre Dame tackle Andy Heck and Arizona center Joe Tofflemire were the first two selections. Elroy Harris, the Eastern Kentucky power runner who dominated his level of football (I-AA), was the third. Tight end Travis McNeal of Tennessee-Chattanooga was the fourth. Tofflemire might have a



CURT WARNER

chance to start at center, but the Seahawks' guards, the underrated Bryan Millard and Edwin Bailey, and tackles Ron Mattes and Mike Wilson seem secure, although Heck, a tight end until his senior season, may challenge one of them by mid-season. The pass protection allowed just 29 sacks.

The big question on defense is whether Brian Bosworth is finally going to take some steps beyond the status of celebrity linebacker. Bosworth was bothered all season by a shoulder injury and missed the final month. If he has the sort of year of which the Seahawks



DAVE KRIEG

think he is capable, the defense against the run could start to improve. The defense got an unexpectedly good year out of the other inside backer, the frequently injured Dave Wyman. He finished second on the team in tackles. Right outside linebacker Tony Woods is ready to ferment as a pro.

The pass rush is still largely Jacob Green. He led the team with nine sacks. Woods, an accomplished blitzer, had five. The Seahawks need more push from end Jeff Bryant, who had a sub-par season. Joe Nash, backed by Ken Clarke, provides competence at nose tackle. Outside linebacker Bruce Scholtz is a journeyman, but there are too many journeymen in the defense. Rufus Porter, signed as a free agent, was the AFC's top special-teams player and went to the Pro Bowl as a rookie. He may make a move as a linebacker.

In the secondary, speedy cornerback Terry Taylor had five interceptions, but he can be an attitude problem. The other corner, Patrick Hunter, cracked up his car on the eve of the playoffs and put himself out of the lineup. His replacement, Melvin Jenkins, led the team with three forced fumbles. Veteran strong safety Paul Moyer was the interception leader with six and free safety Eugene Robinson topped the team with 114 tackles.

The Seahawks led the league in punt coverage, finished in the top five in four special-teams categories, and blocked four field goals. Norm Johnson missed an important extra point in the playoff loss to Cincinnati, but he made 22-of-28 field-goal attempts during the regular season. Punter Ruben Rodriguez averaged 40.8 yards and kicked even better in the playoffs.

SEAHAWKS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
65	Bailey, Edwin	G	6-4	273	30	South Carolina St.
62	Barkey, Roland	NT	6-4	270	25	LSU
89	Blades, Brian	WR	5-11	182	24	Miami
55	Bosworth, Brian	LB	6-2	248	24	Oklahoma
77	Bryant, Jeff	DE	6-5	268	29	Clemson
25	Burse, Tony	FB	6-0	220	24	Middle Tenn. St.
84	Clark, Louis	WR	6-0	193	25	Mississippi St.
67	Clarke, Ken	NT	6-1	271	33	Syracuse
53	Comeaux, Darren	LB	6-1	227	29	Arizona State
85	Embree, Jon	TE	6-2	230	24	Colorado
54	Feasel, Grant	C	6-7	277	29	Abilene Christian
22	Glasgow, Nesby	S	5-10	187	32	Washington
69	Godfrey, Chris	G	6-3	265	31	Michigan
79	Green, Jacob	DE	6-3	254	32	Texas A&M
34	Harmon, Kevin	RB	6-0	190	24	Iowa
29	Harper, Dwayne	CB	5-11	165	23	South Carolina St.
96	Henton, Anthony	LB	6-1	234	26	Troy State
25	Hollis, David	S	5-11	180	24	Nevada-Las Vegas
23	Hurley, Patrick	CB	5-11	185	25	Nevada-Reno
24	Jenkins, Melvin	CB	5-10	182	27	Cincinnati
26	Johnson, Johnnie	S	6-1	183	33	Texas
52	Johnson, M. L.	LB	6-3	229	25	Hawaii
9	Johnson, Norm	K	6-2	197	29	UCLA
81	Kane, Tommy	WR	5-11	180	25	Syracuse
15	Kemp, Jeff	QB	6-0	198	30	Dartmouth
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	192	31	Milton
80	Largent, Steve	WR	5-11	191	35	Tulsa
13	Mathison, Bruce	QB	6-3	205	30	Nebraska
70	Mattes, Ron	T	6-6	302	26	Virginia
30	McLemore, Chris	FB	6-1	230	26	Arizona
71	Millard, Bryan	G	6-5	281	29	Texas
91	Miller, Darrin	LB	6-1	227	24	Tennessee
61	Miltz, Alonzo	DE	6-3	271	26	Florida
21	Moyer, Paul	S	6-1	196	28	Arizona St.
72	Nash, Joe	NT	6-2	269	29	Boston College
88	Pattison, Mark	WR	6-2	191	28	Washington
97	Porter, Rufus	LB	6-1	207	24	Southern
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	183	26	Colgate
5	Rodriguez, Ruben	P	6-2	214	24	Arizona
58	Scholtz, Bruce	LB	6-6	241	31	Texas
82	Skansi, Paul	WR	5-11	184	28	Washington
11	Stouffer, Kelly	DB	6-3	210	25	Colorado St.
20	Taylor, Terry	CB	5-10	181	28	Southern Illinois
64	Thomas, Kevin	C	6-2	268	25	Arizona State
51	Traynor, Mark	G	6-5	280	27	Nebraska
28	Warner, Curt	RB	5-11	205	28	Penn State
98	Wilburn, Steve	DE	6-4	266	28	Illinois State
68	Williams, Doug	T	6-6	295	27	Texas A&M
32	Williams, John L.	FB	5-11	226	27	Florida
75	Wilson, Mike	T	6-5	274	34	Georgia
57	Woods, Tony	LB	6-4	244	24	Pittsburgh
92	Wynan, David	LB	6-2	234	24	Stanford

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Heck, Andy	OT	6-5	270	Notre Dame
2	Tofflemire, Joe	C	6-2	270	Arizona
3	Harris, Elroy	RB	5-9	210	E. Kentucky
4	McNeal, Travis	TE	6-3	235	UT-Chattanooga
4	Henry, James	CB	5-9	190	S. Mississippi
7	Nettles, Mike	DB	5-10	185	Memphis State
8	Williams, Marlin	DE	6-3	253	Western Illinois
9	Franks, David	G	6-4	290	Connecticut
10	Fenner, Derrick	RB	6-3	235	North Carolina
11	Baum, Mike	DE	6-6	270	Northwestern
12	Kors, R. J.	DB	6-0	195	Long Beach State

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

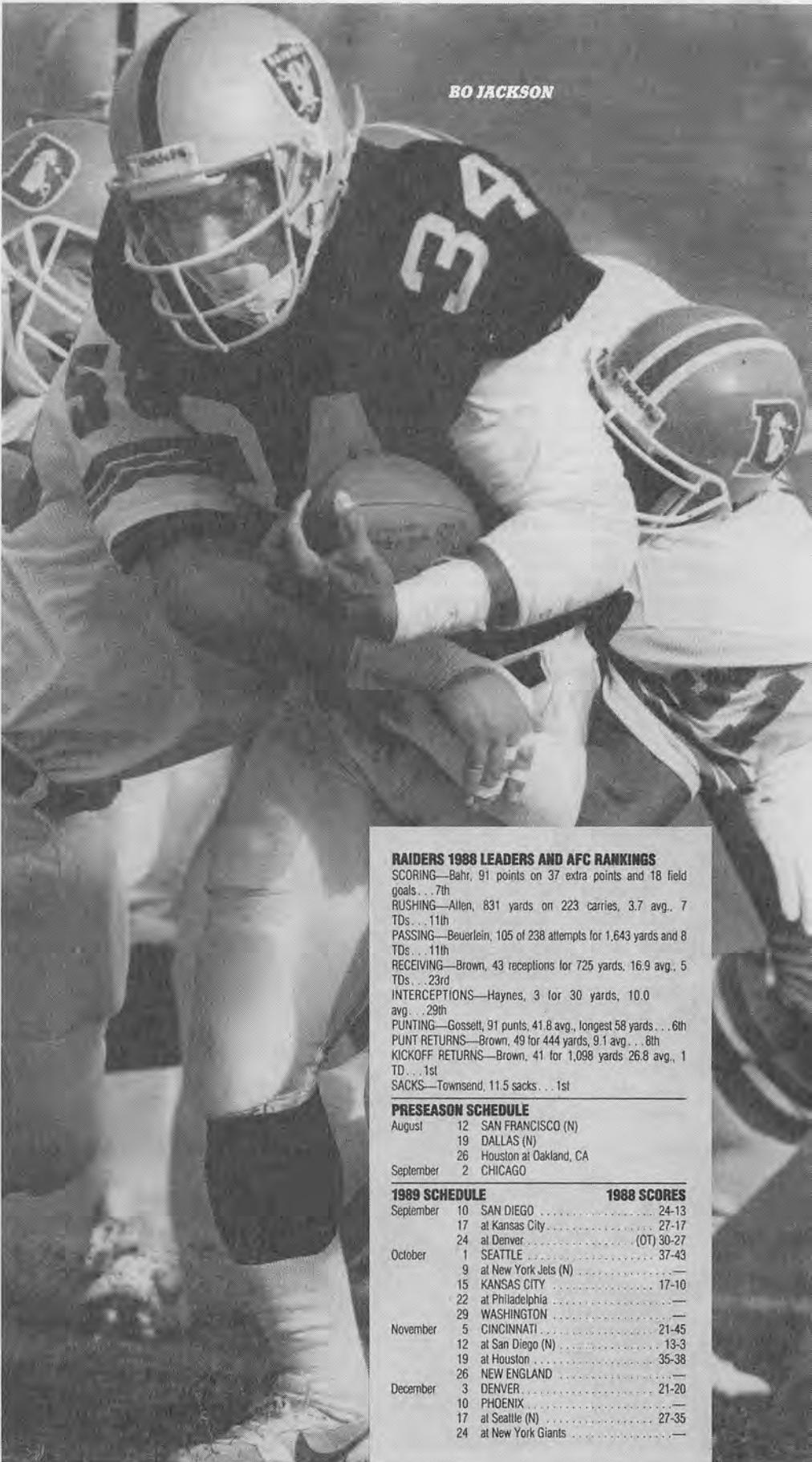
The unthinkable has happened to the Raiders. Football people have snickered at Al Davis, their sorcerer in chief. At times during the 1988 season, there was outright derisive laughter. The loudest guffaws came after Davis paid an enormous price for Washington quarterback Jay Schroeder and then Schroeder played the type of football that had convinced the Redskins to bench and then trade him. Almost as bad was the expensive deal for Chicago wide receiver Willie Gault, who became, in effect, a missing person. Davis bestowed a kingly salary on defensive lineman Howie Long and ever since, Long has been hobbled by so many injuries that he has performed far below his standards. Finally there was Bo Jackson, who pursued his hobby of football in too ordinary a manner too often. The Los Angeles sporting public, the most fickle in America, found other diversions rather than attending Raider games.

These are harsh times for the Raiders. They haven't experienced a winning season since 1985. They haven't won a playoff game since their last Super Bowl year, 1983. The defense that used to be their intimidating trademark allowed 34 points a game over the last four games a year ago. They lost three of those games, dropping out the playoff race in the most mediocre of divisions. Among AFC defenses, only Miami allowed more points than the Raiders' 369. If a defense is that porous, the offense better score often. The Raiders' offense scored inconsistently. In seven games it scored 17 or fewer points. The offensive line allowed Raider passers to be sacked an AFC-high 46 times. And the draft was nearly barren, since Davis traded away several picks to acquire Steve Wisniewski, the Penn State guard who they hope will be a clone of Houston's Mike Munchak or New England's Sean Farrell.

How do the Raiders make people stop snickering? It's up to Mike Shanahan, who did not receive high marks in his first year as head coach, to do better with the material he has. The material isn't bad. Schroeder started improving toward the end of the season after an earlier benching. That is the most essential element of Raider progress. Schroeder passed for 354 yards and three touchdowns in the final game of the season, which the Raiders see as a watershed event. Typically, Seattle beat them, 43-37, in that game.

Shanahan will have to make a hard decision by opening day. Is Schroeder the man the Raiders have been seeking for four years? Once he became the starter, Schroeder threw 13 touchdown passes, one of the highest scoring-pass ratios in the AFC. But his efficiency rating, 64.6, was the second-lowest among AFC starters and his 13 interceptions gave him the second-worst ratio, 5.1 percent. If Shanahan—with Davis's assent—decides Schroeder isn't the guy, then young Steve Beuerlein gets an accelerated course in quarterbacking. Beuerlein threw eight touchdown passes, had a low interception rate, and an efficiency ranking slightly higher than Schroeder's during his brief tenure as the '88 starter.

If the Raiders do find a viable quarterback and protect him, they have the potential to destroy a lot of secondaries. Tim Brown, the 1987 Heisman Trophy winner, has that superstar look. He caught 43 passes for a 16.9 yard



BO JACKSON

RAIDERS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Bahr, 91 points on 37 extra points and 18 field goals...7th
RUSHING—Allen, 831 yards on 223 carries, 3.7 avg., 7 TDs...11th
PASSING—Beuerlein, 105 of 238 attempts for 1,643 yards and 8 TDs...11th
RECEIVING—Brown, 43 receptions for 725 yards, 16.9 avg., 5 TDs...23rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Haynes, 3 for 30 yards, 10.0 avg., 29th
PUNTING—Gossett, 91 punts, 41.8 avg., longest 58 yards...6th
PUNT RETURNS—Brown, 49 for 444 yards, 9.1 avg., 8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Brown, 41 for 1,098 yards 26.8 avg., 1 TD...1st
SACKS—Townsend, 11.5 sacks...1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	12	SAN FRANCISCO (N)
	19	DALLAS (N)
	26	Houston at Oakland, CA
September	2	CHICAGO

1989 SCHEDULE		1988 SCORES
September	10	SAN DIEGO
	17	at Kansas City
	24	at Denver
October	1	SEATTLE
	9	at New York Jets (N)
	15	KANSAS CITY
	22	at Philadelphia
	29	WASHINGTON
November	5	CINCINNATI
	12	at San Diego (N)
	19	at Houston
	26	NEW ENGLAND
December	3	DENVER
	10	PHOENIX
	17	at Seattle (N)
	24	at New York Giants

average and five touchdowns as a rookie. He can be a terrifying weapon. James Lofton is at the role-playing phase of his career, but ex-Canadian league star Mervyn Fernandez averaged 26 yards on his 31 catches, and when Gault is interested, he can be sensational (24.5-yard average on 16 catches). Frequent all-pro tight end Todd Christensen was hurt last season and may be in decline. He caught just 15 passes.

The running game, like much of what the Raiders do nowadays, is mediocre. Marcus Allen, showing signs of all those wearying hits and his willing blocking, carried 223 times and gained 831 yards, which didn't even put him in the AFC's top 10. Jackson added 580 yards, but his one memorable day was an 85-yard performance against San Francisco, the Super Bowl champs, when the Raiders pulled off a 9-3 upset.

Wisniewski should walk right into the offensive lineup at guard. In fact, the only veteran linemen with security may be Don Mosebar and Bill Lewis. Rory Graves, an undrafted free agent cut by Seattle a year ago, ended up as one starting tackle. The free-agency auction brought guard Dale Hellestrea from Buffalo.

Something strange happened to the defense in mid-season. It had a five-game streak in which it allowed an average of just 10.6 points. The Raiders won four of those games. That led Davis to the conclusion that the most was not being derived from the material. The defensive coaching staff was gutted after the season and Dave Adolph, who had been

Cleveland's defensive coordinator, was hired. There is some talent. Greg Townsend led the AFC with 11½ sacks. If Long and the often injured Bill Pickel make comebacks, the line will be formidable again. Scott Davis had 5½ sacks as a rookie end. Nose tackle Bob Golic of Cleveland was signed as a free agent.

Matt Millen went to the Pro Bowl as an alternate, but the Raider linebacking is in a state of disrepair. That's why Davis signed five free agents: Otis Wilson (Bears), Emanuel King

(Bengals), Jackie Shipp (Dolphins), Tom Benson (Patriots), and Joe Costello (Falcons). The big need in the secondary is for Terry McDaniels, a first-round draftee who was injured last year, to return and win a cornerback job. Mike Richardson, inconsistent as a Bear, was signed as a free agent. Vann McElroy is still a sound free safety, but at 36, cornerback Mike Haynes doesn't have much left.

Jeff Jaeger, signed off Cleveland's unprotected list, is the new place-kicker. Punter Jeff Gossett had a Ray Guy-type year, a 41.8-yard average and an AFC-high 27 kicks inside the 20-yard line. Brown led the NFL in kickoff returns with a 26.8 average, returning one 97 yards for a touchdown. He also averaged 9.1 on punt returns.

RAIDERS VETERAN ROSTER

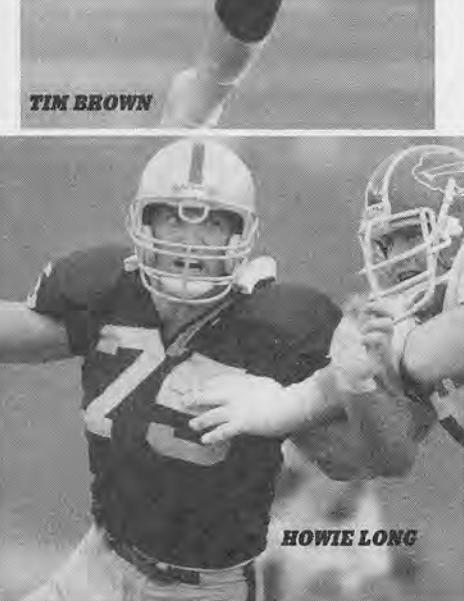
no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
44	Adams, Stefon	S	5-10	190	26	East Carolina
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	205	29	Southern Cal
89	Alexander, Mike	WR	6-2	202	24	Penn State
33	Anderson, Eddie	S	6-1	195	26	Fort Valley St.
	Benson, Tom	LB	6-2	235	27	Oklahoma
7	Beuerlein, Steve	QB	6-2	205	24	Notre Dame
64	Brown, Ron	DE	6-4	225	25	Southern Cal
81	Brown, Tim	WR	6-0	195	23	Notre Dame
29	Carter, Russell	S	6-2	200	27	SMU
46	Christensen, Todd	TE	6-3	230	33	Brigham Young
	Costello, Joe	LB	6-3	245	28	Central Conn.
	Crudup, Derrick	DB	6-2	210	24	Oklahoma
70	Davis, Scott	DE	6-7	270	24	Illinois
	Dyal, Mike	TE	6-3	240	23	Texas A+I
11	Evans, Vince	QB	6-3	210	34	Southern Cal
86	Fernandez, Mervyn	WR	6-3	200	30	San Jose St.
83	Gault, Willie	WR	6-0	180	29	Tennessee
63	Gesek, John	OL	6-5	275	26	Sacramento St.
	Golic, Bob	DT	6-2	265	31	Notre Dame
6	Gossett, Jeff	P	6-2	195	32	E. Illinois
	Graddy, Sam	WR	5-10	165	25	Tennessee
60	Graves, Rony	T	6-6	285	26	Ohio State
	Harrell, Newt	OT	6-5	295	25	West Texas St.
22	Haynes, Mike	CB	6-2	190	36	Arizona State
	Hellestrea, Dale	G	6-5	285	26	SMU
34	Jackson, Bo	RB	6-1	225	27	Auburn
	Jaeger, Jeff	K	5-11	190	24	Washington
87	Junkin, Trey	TE	6-2	230	28	Louisiana Tech
59	Kimmel, Jamie	LB	6-3	235	27	Syracuse
	King, Emanuel	LB	6-4	250	25	Alabama
52	King, Linden	LB	6-4	245	34	Colorado St.
	Koch, Pete	DE	6-6	265	27	Maryland
40	Lee, Zeph	RB	6-3	210	26	Southern Cal
51	Lewis, Bill	C	6-7	275	26	Nebraska
80	Lofton, James	WR	6-3	190	33	Stanford
75	Long, Howie	DE	6-5	265	30	Villanova
	McDaniel, Terry	CB	5-10	170	24	Tennessee
26	McElroy, Vann	S	6-2	195	29	Baylor
55	Milien, Matt	LB	6-2	250	31	Penn State
72	Mosebar, Don	T	6-6	280	28	Southern Cal
42	Mueller, Vance	RB	6-0	215	25	Occidental
71	Pickel, Bill	DT	6-5	265	30	Rutgers
38	Price, Dennis	CB	6-1	175	24	UCLA
	Richardson, Mike	CB	6-0	185	27	Arizona St.
77	Riehm, Chris	G	6-6	280	28	Ohio State
57	Robinson, Jerry	LB	6-2	230	33	UCLA
	Rother, Tim	DE	6-7	270	240	Nebraska
13	Schroeder, Jay	QB	6-4	215	28	UCLA
	Shipp, Jackie	LB	6-2	235	27	Oklahoma
35	Smith, Steve	RB	6-1	230	25	Penn State
	Snelson, Eric	LB	6-3	245	24	Stanford
39	Strachan, Steve	RB	6-1	225	26	Boston College
96	Taylor, Malcolm	DT	6-6	280	29	Tennessee St.
30	Torani, Stacey	S	6-3	200	28	Notre Dame
93	Townsend, Greg	DE	6-3	250	28	TCU
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6-0	185	29	Tulane
68	Wilkinson, Bruce	G	6-5	285	25	Tennessee
	Wilson, Ollis	LB	6-2	230	31	Louisville
90	Wise, Mike	DE	6-7	270	25	Cal-Davis
66	Wright, Steve	T	6-6	280	30	Northern Iowa

DRAFTEES

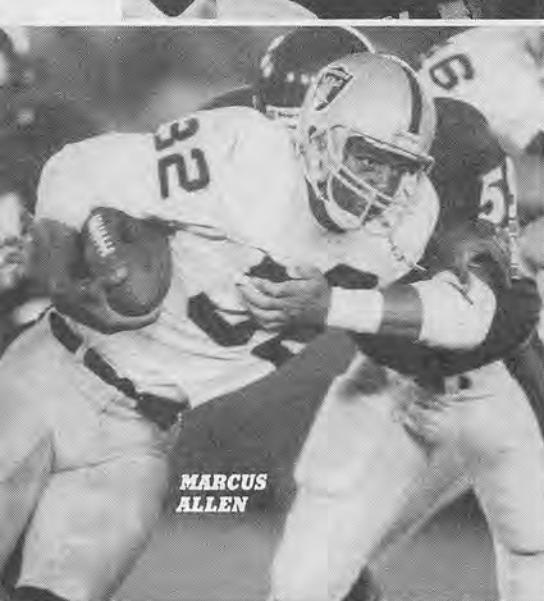
rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Wisniewski, Steve	G	6-4	270	Penn State
6	Francis, Jeff	QB	6-3	220	Tennessee
6	Lloyd, Doug	RB	6-1	219	N. Dakota St.
8	Gainer, Derrick	RB	5-10	215	Florida A&M
9	Gooden, Gary	DB	6-1	170	Indiana
10	Jackson, Charles	DT	6-4	285	Jackson St.



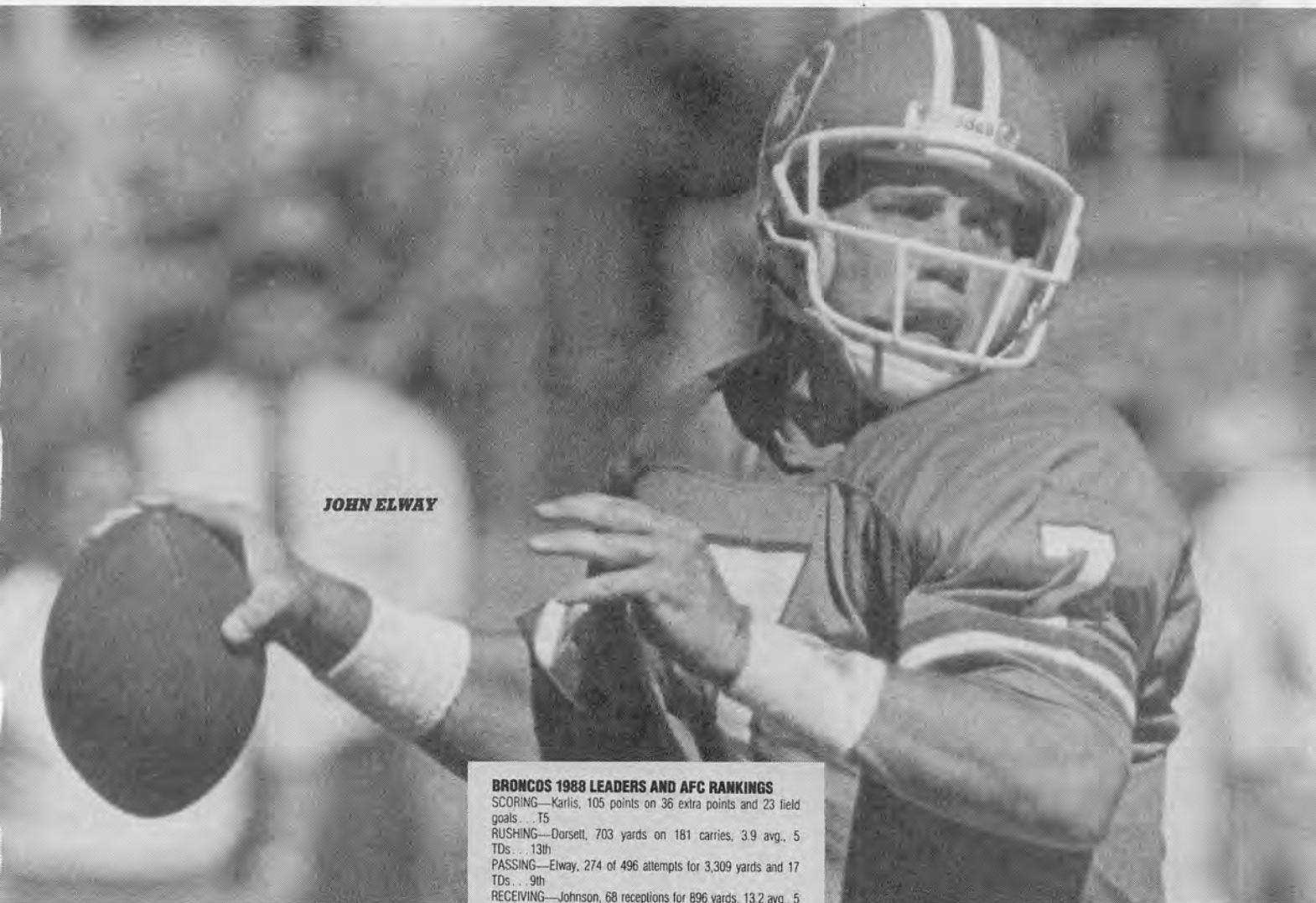
JAY SCHROEDER



HOWIE LONG



MARCUS ALLEN



JOHN ELWAY

DENVER BRONCOS

It looks like scapegoat time in Denver. Joe Collier, for more than a quarter of a century considered one of the foremost defensive gurus in pro football, was cashiered after the Broncos slipped from the Super Bowl to an 8-8 record, which kept them out of the playoffs. It was widely interpreted as a panic move by head coach Dan Reeves to save his own job.

There is no question that Denver has defensive problems. The evidence was never more graphic than in the next to last game of the season, when the Broncos met Seattle in a showdown that eventually decided the AFC West champion. The Seahawks scored on their first six possessions, driving 97, 48, 55, 75, 81, and 80 yards in a 42-14 blowout. Quarterback John Elway described his team as a "welcome mat." The Broncos were at their worst on the road, where they were outscored, 135-17, in the first two quarters of their last five road games as losing visitors. Indianapolis scored 55 points against them, New Orleans 42, Pittsburgh 39, and Seattle 42.

But it is erroneous to attribute the defensive troubles to coaching alone. The Broncos just don't have the material any longer. They placed nine of the defensive players from their December active roster, including four starters, on their unprotected list in the free-agent auction. In the four college drafts from 1985

BRONCOS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Karlis, 105 points on 36 extra points and 23 field goals...T5
RUSHING—Dorsell, 703 yards on 181 carries, 3.9 avg., 5 TDs...13th
PASSING—Elway, 274 of 496 attempts for 3,309 yards and 17 TDs...9th
RECEIVING—Johnson, 68 receptions for 896 yards, 13.2 avg., 5 TDs...6th
INTERCEPTIONS—Harden, 4 for 36 yards, 9.0 avg...18th
PUNTING—Horan, 65 punts, 44.0 avg., longest 70 yards...3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Natiel, 23 for 223 yards, 9.7 avg...6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bell, 36 for 762 yards, 21.2 avg...10th
SACKS—Fletcher, 9.0...T4

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

	August	12	LOS ANGELES RAMS (N)
	19	at San Francisco (N)	
	26	DALLAS (N)	
	September 2	at Indianapolis (N)	

	September	10	KANSAS CITY	17-11
	18	at Buffalo (N)	—	—
	24	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	(OT) 27-30	—
	October 1	at Cleveland	30-7	—
	8	SAN DIEGO	34-3	—
	15	INDIANAPOLIS	23-55	—
	22	at Seattle	14-42	—
	29	PHILADELPHIA	—	—
	5	PITTSBURGH	21-39	—
	12	at Kansas City	13-20	—
	20	at Washington (N)	—	—
	26	SEATTLE	14-21	—
	December 3	at Los Angeles Raiders	20-21	—
	10	NEW YORK GIANTS	20-21	—
	16	at Phoenix	—	—
	24	at San Diego	12-0	—

through 1988, just two picks in the first two rounds were used for defensive players. The only first-round defensive draftee, nose tackle Ted Gregory, was seen as such an immediate mistake that he was traded to New Orleans before he even played a game with Denver. The Broncos have lost more than they gained

defensively in the last two years, having dealt linebacker Rickey Hunley, a starter in the Super Bowl, to Phoenix.

The rest of the NFL didn't show much respect for the Denver defensive talent at free-agent time, either. Only Walt Bowyer, a starting end, was lost. He signed with Kansas City. The shunned unprotected starters were cornerbacks Mark Haynes and Jeremiah Castille and inside linebacker Rick Dennison. The most respected starters are blitzing linebacker Simon Fletcher, who had nine sacks; end Andre Townsend, who had 5½ sacks and 113 tackles; nose tackle Greg Kragan, who had 140 tackles; and hard-hitting free safety Mike Harden, who had a team-high four interceptions and 132 tackles. Karl Mecklenburg, bothered by injuries for much of 1988, also belongs with this group.

Even when they turned over a new leaf and drafted defensively this spring, there was controversy. Their first selection was safety Steve Atwater of Arkansas. He may turn out to be a fine player, but at the time Atwater was drafted, safety Louis Oliver of Florida remained on the board and most scouts considered Oliver a far better prospect. Wade Phillips, the new defensive coordinator, will have to accelerate the development of young linebacker Michael Brooks, Atwater, and two rookie defensive ends from the Atlantic Coast Conference:

Warren Powers of Maryland and Richard McCullough of Clemson.

Defense isn't Denver's only handicap in its attempt to climb back to the top of the division. The attack is still out of balance. The Broncos finished sixth in the NFL in passing but 19th in running, despite a heavy expenditure for veteran back Tony Dorsett. He gained a respectable 703 yards, but Dorsett's longest run was 26 yards and he faded late in the season. At 35, Dorsett is not likely to have much left. Owner Pat Bowlen pondered whether to drop both Dorsett and long-time pass-rush star Rulon Jones in the interest of financial prudence. Sammy Winder may resume his old role of bellwether ball carrier.

Elway passed for 3,309 yards, but he had

more interceptions (19) than touchdowns (17) and his 71.4 efficiency rating was down with the struggles. The tipoff to Elway's problems is seen in the number of times he was sacked, 30, which is too many for a quarterback as mobile as he is. Reeves moved in the draft to strengthen his line, selecting big Doug Widell of Boston College and Darrell Hamilton of North Carolina. Huge Gerald Perry became a starter last year. So did guard Jim Juriga, whose debut was delayed by a year of knee rehabilitation. But mostly the Broncos depend on veterans such as guard Keith Bishop and tackles Ken Lanier and Dave Studdard.

There is nothing wrong with the receiving. Vance Johnson caught 68 passes. Mark Jackson caught 46 for an 18.5-yard average and six touchdowns. Steve Sewell, the third-down back, caught 38, five of which were for touchdowns. Ricky Nattiel should do better than average 12.5 yards on his 46 catches. Clarence Kay caught four touchdown passes as a goal-line receiver, but Orson Mobley, who could become a force, made "trade-me" noises during the offseason.

It is not an overpowering offensive lineup for a team with serious defensive deficiencies. The burden again will be on Elway, who be-

came the first man in NFL history to pass for 3,000 yards and run for 200 in six consecutive seasons. The return game is nothing special and neither is the coverage. Place-kicker Rick Karlis had 23 field goals but he missed 13 and was left unprotected. Punter Mike Horan had a good year, averaging 44 yards and dropping 19 kicks inside the 20-yard line.

BRONCOS VETERAN ROSTER

no. name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
40 Alexander, Jeff	RB	6-0	232	24	Southern U.
35 Bell, Ken	RB	5-10	190	25	Boston College
54 Bishop, Keith	OL	6-3	265	32	Baylor
68 Blair, Paul	OT	6-4	280	26	Oklahoma St.
34 Bradton, Tyrone	S	5-11	174	25	No. Dakota St.
56 Brooks, Michael	LB	6-1	235	25	LSU
64 Bryan, Billy	C	6-2	255	34	Duke
95 Bryan, Steve	LB	6-2	256	25	Oklahoma
92 Carreker, Alphonso	DE	6-6	272	27	Florida St.
28 Castille, Jeremiah	CB	5-10	175	28	Alabama
53 Contz, Bill	OT	6-5	270	28	Penn State
26 Corrington, Kip	S	6-0	175	24	Texas A&M
86 Cosbie, Doug	TE	6-6	238	33	Santa Clara
58 Curtis, Scott	LB	6-1	230	25	New Hampshire
55 Denison, Rick	LB	6-3	220	32	Colorado SL
33 Dorsett, Tony	RB	5-11	189	35	Pittsburgh
7 Elway, John	QB	6-3	210	29	Stanford
73 Fletcher, Simon	DE	6-5	240	27	Houston
90 Gilbert, Freddie	DE	6-4	275	27	Georgia
22 Goode, Kerry	RB	5-11	212	24	Alabama
37 Guidry, Kevin	CB	6-0	176	25	LSU
31 Harden, Mike	DB	6-1	192	30	Michigan
36 Haynes, Mark	CB	5-11	195	31	Colorado
24 Henderson, Wymon	CB	5-10	186	28	UNLV
78 Hood, Winford	G	6-3	262	27	Georgia
2 Horan, Mike	P	5-11	190	30	Long Beach SL
79 Humphries, Stefan	G	6-3	268	27	Michigan
80 Jackson, Mark	WR	5-10	180	26	Purdue
82 Johnson, Vance	WR	5-11	185	26	Arizona
75 Jones, Rulon	DE	6-6	260	32	Utah St.
66 Juriga, Jim	OL	6-6	269	25	Illinois
12 Karcher, Ken	QB	6-3	205	26	Tulane
3 Karlis, Rich	K	6-0	180	30	Cincinnati
72 Kartz, Keith	T	6-4	270	26	California
88 Kay, Clarence	TE	6-2	237	28	Georgia
86 Kelly, Pat	TE	6-6	252	24	Syracuse
97 Klostermann, Bruce	LB	6-4	232	26	South Dakota St.
99 Knight, Shawn	DE	6-4	284	25	Brigham Young
71 Kragen, Greg	NT	6-3	260	27	Utah State
8 Kubia, Gary	QB	6-0	192	28	Texas A&M
76 Lanier, Ken	T	6-3	261	30	Florida St.
59 Lucas, Tim	LB	6-3	230	28	California
85 Massie, Rick	WR	6-1	190	29	Kentucky
77 Mecklenburg, Karl	LB	6-3	230	29	Minnesota
89 Mobley, Orson	TE	6-5	256	26	Salem College
51 Murford, Marc	LB	6-2	231	24	Nebraska
84 Nattiel, Ricky	WR	5-8	180	23	Florida
60 Perry, Gerald	T	6-6	305	25	Southern U.
53 Peterson, Blake	LB	6-3	249	25	Mesa College
74 Provenza, Andrew	NT	6-3	270	28	South Carolina
48 Robbins, Randy	S	6-2	189	26	Arizona
57 Ruether, Mike	C	6-4	275	27	Texas
50 Ryan, Jim	LB	6-1	225	32	William & Mary
30 Sewell, Steve	RB	6-3	210	26	Oklahoma
49 Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	30	Southern Cal
70 Studdard, Dave	T	6-4	260	34	Texas
94 Thornton, Randy	LB	6-3	220	25	Houston
61 Townsend, Andre	DE	6-3	285	27	Mississippi
32 Ware, Reggie	RB	6-2	249	24	Auburn
81 Watson, Steve	WR	6-4	195	32	Temple
47 Willhite, Gerald	RB	5-10	200	30	San Jose St.
23 Winder, Sammy	RB	5-11	203	30	So. Mississippi
21 Woodberry, Dennis	CB	5-10	180	28	So. Arkansas
83 Young, Mike	WR	6-1	183	27	UCLA

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Abwater, Steve	S	6-3	215	Arkansas
2	Widell, Doug	T	6-4	285	Boston College
3	Powers, Warren	OT	6-4	280	Maryland
3	Hamilton, Darrell	OT	6-6	290	North Carolina
4	McCullough, Richard	DE	6-5	265	Clemson
5	Carrington, Darren	CB	6-1	190	N. Arizona
6	Stafford, Anthony	WR	5-8	180	Oklahoma
7	Bratton, Melvin	RB	6-1	225	Miami
8	Green, Paul	TE	6-2	223	Southern Cal
9	Smith, Monte	G	6-4	261	North Dakota
9	Williams, Wayne	RB	5-10	197	Florida
10	Bulst, Anthony	DE	6-3	279	Mississippi St.
11	Shelton, Richard	DB	5-10	180	Liberty
12	Javis, John	WR	5-10	181	Howard



STEVE WATSON



TONY DORSETT



RULON JONES

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

The Chargers have no personality. Who are they? Where do they hope to go and how do they plan to get there? Even Dan Henning, the new head coach, might have trouble answering those questions right now. Henning's task is to define this team. The Chargers once were defined by the big play, the killer pass, the all-out assault. In the Sid Gillman era there were great offensive performers such as Hall of Fame wide receiver Lance Alworth and quarterback John Hadl. In the "Air Coryell" era

there were stars such as quarterback Dan Fouts, tight end Kellen Winslow, and receiver Charlie Joiner. What Henning has now are mostly strangers, recycled pros, and a small handful of promise.

Henning, unable to produce a winning record in four seasons as Atlanta's head coach, gets another chance from an owner, Alex Spanos, who is not renowned for his patience. On the other hand, Spanos, in five years, has witnessed only one finish above fourth place. That was in 1987, when the Chargers came in third with an 8-7 record. But even that season was a bitter one, since the team lost its last six games and fell out of contention.

Henning's foremost handicap is that he does not have a quarterback. The Chargers finished 26th in NFL passing in 1988. Two other teams that played without a quarterback, New England and Detroit, finished below them. Mark Malone, who left Pittsburgh pursued by a lynch mob, was no more effective in San Diego. He finished with the lowest efficiency rating of any AFC starting quarterback, 58.8, and his ratio of touchdowns to passes thrown was also the lowest, 2.2 percent. Mark Vlasic, returning from a knee injury, could push him. Billy Joe Tolliver of Texas Tech was

drafted in the second round because of his powerful arm and potential, not his college record. His future may arrive sooner than anyone in the organization expects or desires.

If Henning could uncover an efficient passer, he has receivers on hand to make the best of it. Anthony Miller, a flier in the manner of former Raiders' star Cliff Branch, was everything the Chargers had hoped when they made him a No. 1 draftee. He caught 36 passes for a 14.6-yard average and three touchdowns. Jamie Holland, another speedy wide receiver, caught 39. Quinn Early, a third rookie, scored four touchdowns on his 29 catches. Charger quarterbacks threw only 11 touchdown passes, the lowest in the NFL. Darren Flutie, Doug's brother, established himself as the top possession receiver late last season. If Rod Bernstine is free of injuries, he could develop into one of the better pass-catching tight ends.

Henning is likely to use a great deal of one-back offense, as he did in Atlanta and with the Washington Redskins, where he was a long-time offensive strategist. The one back will be Gary Anderson, who had the quietest 1,000-yard season in the NFL. Anderson was third in the AFC, with 1,119 yards. Only Eric Dicker-

CHARGERS 1988 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Johnson, 105 points on 39 extra points and 22 field goals...5th
RUSHING—Anderson, 1,119 yards on 225 carries, 5.0 avg., 3 TDs...3rd
PASSING—Malone, 147 of 272 attempts for 1,580 yards and 6 TDs...14th
RECEIVING—Holland, 39 receptions for 536 yards, 13.7 avg., 1 TD...27th
INTERCEPTIONS—Byrd, 7 for 82 yards, 11.7 avg...3rd
PUNTING—Mojisejenko, 85 punts, 44.1 avg., longest, 62 yards...2nd
PUNT RETURNS—James, 28 for 278 yards, 9.9 avg...4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Holland, 31 for 810 yards, 26.1 avg., 1 TD...2nd
SACKS—Williams, 11.0 sacks...T2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	13	DALLAS
	19	AT Chicago (N)
	23	AT San Francisco (N)
September	1	PHOENIX (N)

1989 SCHEDULE		1988 SCORES
September	10	at Los Angeles Raiders.....13-24
	17	HOUSTON.....—
	24	KANSAS CITY.....24-13
October	1	at Phoenix.....—
	8	at Denver.....3-34
	15	SEATTLE.....17-6
	22	NEW YORK GIANTS.....—
	29	at Seattle.....14-17
	5	PHILADELPHIA.....—
	12	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N).....3-13
	19	at Pittsburgh.....20-14
	26	at Indianapolis.....0-16
November	3	NEW YORK JETS.....—
	10	at Washington.....—
	17	at Kansas City.....24-23
	24	DENVER.....0-12



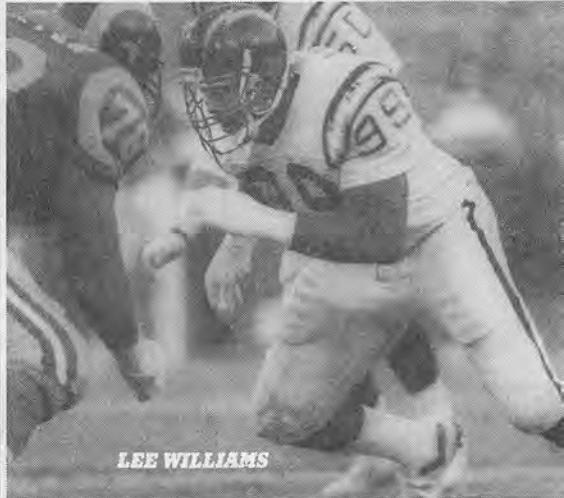
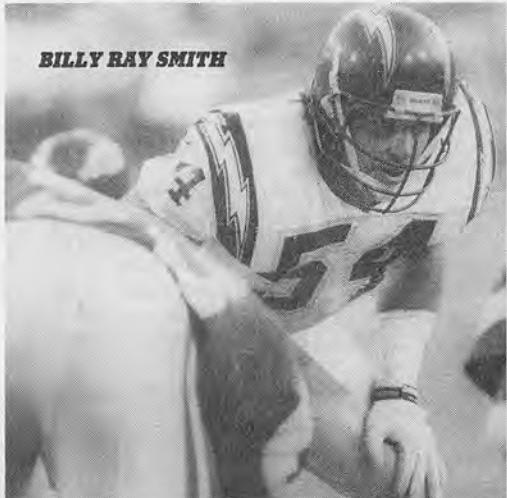
LIONEL JAMES

AFCwest

son of Indianapolis and John Stephens of New England finished higher. Anderson's five-yard average was exceeded only by Cincinnati's Ickey Woods and James Brooks. Henning may find more ways to use Anderson, a good receiver, as a passing target. He caught 32 balls but averaged a mere 5.7 yards, less than half his career average. A bonus is that the Navy will make Napoleon McCallum available more often.



Joel Patten, a backup at Indianapolis, could come right off the free-agent list to start at left tackle. David Richards started all 16 games at right tackle last year as a rookie. Dennis McKnight and Broderick Thompson are the guards. Rookie Courtney Hall of Rice, who impressed scouts with his knockout workouts, could have the right stuff to unseat veteran Don Macek at center. The Chargers allowed 31 sacks, a reasonable number at first glance.



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But consider that Malone's chief asset is his escapability and running skills, so the sack total signals larger problems. Malone averaged 4.6 yards on his 37 carries and scored four touchdowns.

If the Chargers are to move up in the division standings this year, their most likely vehicle will be defense. For starters, the respected Ron Lynn was retained as defensive coordinator. Then Burt Grossman of Pitt, considered the best pass-rushing end in the draft, was

CHARGERS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
10	Abbott, Vince	K	5-11	208	30	Fullerton St.
42	Adams, Curtis	RB	5-11	207	27	Central Michigan
40	Anderson, Gary	RB	6-0	184	28	Arkansas
	Bahr, Chris	K	5-10	170	36	Penn State
44	Bayless, Martin	SS	6-2	212	27	Bowling Green
84	Bedford, Brian	TE	6-3	210	24	California
23	Bennett, Roy	CB	6-2	195	28	Jackson St.
82	Bernstine, Rod	TE	6-3	238	24	Texas A&M
58	Brandon, David	OLB	6-4	230	24	Memphis St.
73	Briz, Darrick	OL	6-3	270	25	Oregon
57	Browner, Keith	OLB	6-6	256	27	Southern Cal
22	Byrd, Gill	CB	5-11	198	28	San Jose St.
95	Campbell, Joe	LB	6-3	245	23	New Mexico St.
71	Charles, Mike	NT	6-4	296	27	Syracuse
77	Clay, John	T	6-5	305	25	Missouri
31	Coleman, Leonard	FS	6-2	202	27	Vanderbilt
	Collins, Jim	LB	6-2	230	31	Syracuse
88	Cox, Arthur	TE	6-2	277	28	Texas Southern
6	DeLine, Steve	K	5-11	185	26	Colorado St.
87	Early, Quinn	WR	6-0	188	24	Iowa
53	Faucette, Chuck	LB	6-3	242	26	Maryland
51	Figaro, Cedric	LB	6-2	255	23	Notre Dame
70	FitzPatrick, James	OL	6-7	310	25	Southern Cal
90	Floyd, Eric	T	6-5	300	24	Auburn
89	Flute, Darren	WR	5-10	184	23	Boston College
25	Glenn, Vencie	FS	6-0	192	25	Indiana St.
97	Hinkle, George	DE	6-5	267	24	Arizona
21	Hobart, Kenneth	S	6-1	214	28	Idaho
86	Holland, Jamie	WR	6-1	195	25	Ohio State
79	Howard, Joey	T	6-5	305	24	Tennessee
52	Jackson, Jeffery	LB	6-1	242	28	Auburn
26	James, Lionel	RB	5-6	170	27	Auburn
29	Johnson, Demetrious	SS	6-0	200	28	Missouri
93	Keys, Tyrone	DE	6-7	291	29	Mississippi St.
68	Kowalski, Gary	OL	6-6	288	29	Boston College
62	Macek, Don	C	6-2	278	35	Boston College
16	Malone, Mark	QB	6-4	222	31	Arizona St.
60	McKnight, Dennis	OL	6-3	280	30	Drake, Iowa
83	Miller, Anthony	WR	5-11	185	24	Tennessee
69	Miller, Les	DE	6-7	293	24	Ft. Hays St.
48	Miller, Pat	SS	6-1	206	25	Florida
2	Mojisjenko, Rall	P	6-3	213	26	Michigan St.
91	O'Neal, Leslie	DE	6-4	259	25	Oklahoma St.
34	Patterson, Elvis	CB	5-11	198	29	Kansas
75	Phillips, Joe	DE	6-5	275	26	SMU
50	Plummer, Gary	LB	6-2	240	29	Texas Tech
20	Redden, Barry	RB	5-10	220	29	Richmond
65	Richards, David	T	6-4	310	23	UCLA
66	Rosado, Dan	OL	6-3	280	30	N. Illinois
30	Seale, Sam	CB	5-9	185	27	Western St.
63	Searles, Stacy	OL	6-5	280	24	Auburn
54	Smith, Billy Ray	LB	6-3	236	28	Arkansas
	Smith, Tim	RB	5-11	216	25	Texas Tech
43	Spencer, Tim	RB	6-1	223	29	Ohio State
47	Thomas, Johnny	CB	5-9	185	25	Baylor
76	Thompson, Broderick	OL	6-4	295	29	Kansas
13	Vasic, Mark	QB	6-3	203	26	Iowa
99	Williams, Lee	DE	6-5	271	27	Bethune-Cookman
7	Williams, Ronnie	TE	6-3	229	23	Oklahoma St.
72	Wilson, Karl	DE	6-4	275	25	LSU
59	Woodard, Ken	LB	6-1	220	29	Tuskegee

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Grossman, Burt	DE	6-4	270	Pittsburgh
2	Hall, Courtney	C	6-1	265	Rice
2	Tolliver, Billy Joe	DB	6-0	215	Texas Tech
5	Smith, Elliott	CB	6-0	190	Alcorn St.
7	Bullock, Marion	RB	6-1	248	Florida State
7	Jones, Terrence	DB	6-2	208	Tulane
8	Brinson, Dana	WR	5-9	170	Nebraska
9	Davis, Pat	TE	6-4	255	Syracuse
10	Andrews, Ricky	LB	6-3	230	Washington
11	Floyd, Victor	RB	6-1	201	Florida St.



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selected on the first round. Lee Williams had 11 sacks and went to the Pro Bowl last year. Lynn is likely to line up Grossman across from Williams, if the rookie can handle the load. The Chargers may go back to the 4-3 defense, with Joe Phillips at one tackle and Leslie O'Neal at the other. It was feared that O'Neal's career was over after a badly injured knee put him out for more than a year, but he returned during the 1988 season and contributed four sacks. George Hinkle, an unknown who got to play late in the season and recorded three sacks in his first three games, is certain to get more work.

Lynn will need improved linebacking if he hopes to concoct something to stop the run. Cedric Figaro, who played some as a rookie, may be the key. Chuck Faucette, another youngster, also may break into the lineup. The standout veteran is still Billy Ray Smith, who does everything well. Until the kids prove their

worth, Gary Plummer and Keith Browner will do most of the playing.

Elliot Smith wasn't drafted until the fifth round, but the cornerback from Alcorn State could end up a starter. The Chargers need a change in the secondary. Vencie Glenn, a dependable free safety, and cornerback Gill Byrd, who had seven interceptions last season, are the solid veterans. Roy Bennett may be a comer at corner.

Place-kicker Chris Bahr of the Raiders was signed as a free agent. Punter Ralf Mojsjenko not only had a 44.1-yard average, second in the NFL, but he dropped 22 kicks inside the 20-yard line. Holland and Miller give the Chargers the best 1-2 kickoff combination in the league. Holland averaged 26.1 yards and returned one 94 yards for a touchdown. Miller averaged 25.9 and had a 93-yard TD return. Lionel James was the No. 8 punt returner in the NFL with a 9.9-yard average.

1988 College Football Recap

Lou Holtz

Final 1988-89 College Football Rankings

ASSOCIATED PRESS

rank	school	record	points	rank	school	record	points
1.	N. Dame (58½)	12-0-0	1198½	1.	N. Dame (42)	12-0-0	672
2.	Miami (1½)	11-1-0	1141½	2.	Miami (2)	11-1-0	629
3.	Florida State	11-1-0	1073	3.	Florida State (1)	11-1-0	577
4.	Michigan	9-2-1	926	4.	Michigan	9-2-1	464
5.	West Virginia	11-1-0	917	5.	West Virginia	11-1-0	444
6.	UCLA	10-2-0	864	6.	UCLA	10-2-0	363
7.	Southern Cal	10-2-0	803	7.	Auburn	10-2-0	341
8.	Auburn	10-2-0	801	8.	Clemson	10-2-0	327
9.	Clemson	10-2-0	708	9.	Southern Cal	11-2-0	293
10.	Nebraska	11-2-0	704	10.	Nebraska	10-2-0	239
11.	Oklahoma State	10-2-0	671	11.	Oklahoma State	11-2-0	205
12.	Arkansas	10-2-0	489	12.	Syracuse	10-2-0	139
13.	Syracuse	10-2-0	469	13.	Arkansas	9-3-0	88
14.	Oklahoma	9-3-0	438	14.	Oklahoma	9-3-0	73
15.	Georgia	9-3-0	333	15.	Georgia	9-3-0	46
16.	Wash. State	9-3-0	330	16.	Wash. State	9-3-0	11
17.	Alabama	9-3-0	213	17.	Alabama	8-3-1	8
18.	Houston	9-3-0	147	18.	Louisiana State	8-4-0	7
19.	Louisiana State	8-4-0	92	19.	Indiana	8-3-1	11
20.	Indiana	8-3-1	75	20.	Wyoming	11-2-0	7

Division I-AA Playoffs

First Round

Furman 21	Delaware 7
Northwestern State 22	Boise State 13
Marshall 7	North Texas State 0
Georgia Southern 38	Citadel 20
Stephen F. Austin 24	Jackson State 0
Western Kentucky 35	Western Illinois 32
Idaho 38	Montana 19
Eastern Kentucky 28	Massachusetts 17

Quarterfinals

Eastern Kentucky 41	Western Kentucky 24
Georgia Southern 27	Stephen F. Austin 6
Furman 13	Marshall 9
Idaho 38	Northwestern State 30

Semifinals

Furman 38	Idaho 7
Georgia Southern 21	Eastern Kentucky 17
Furman 17	Georgia Southern 12

Championship

Furman 17

Division II Playoffs

First Round

Millersville 27	Indiana (PA) 24
North Carolina Central 31	Winston-Salem 16
North Dakota State 49	Augustana (SD) 7
Sacramento State 35	Cal-Davis 14
Tennessee-Martin 23	Butler 6
Jacksonville State 63	West Chester 24
Texas A&I 39	Mississippi College 15
Portland State 34	Bowie State 17

Quarterfinals

North Dakota State 36	Millersville 26
Sacramento State 56	North Carolina Central 7
Texas A&I 34	Tennessee-Martin 0
Portland State 20	Jacksonville State 13

Semifinals

North Dakota State 42	Sacramento State 20
Portland State 35	Texas A&I 27
Championship	
North Dakota State 35	Portland State 21

Tony Rice

Notre Dame

Division I-A Bowl Games

FIESTA	Notre Dame 34 / West Virginia 21
ORANGE	Miami 23 / Nebraska 3
ROSE	Michigan 22 / Southern Cal 14
SUGAR	Florida State 13 / Auburn 7
COTTON	UCLA 17 / Arkansas 3
CITRUS	Clemson 13 / Oklahoma 6
HALL OF FAME	Syracuse 23 / LSU 10
GATOR	Georgia 34 / Michigan State 27

PEACH	North Carolina State 28 / Iowa 23
HOLIDAY	Oklahoma State 62 / Wyoming 14
FREEDOM	Brigham Young 20 / Colorado 17
ALL-AMERICAN	Florida 14 / Illinois 10
LIBERTY	Indiana 34 / South Carolina 10
ALOHA	Washington State 24 / Houston 22
INDEPENDENCE	Southern Miss 38 / Texas-El Paso 18
SUN	Alabama 29 / Army 28
CALIFORNIA	Fresno State 35 / Western Michigan 30

Division III Playoffs

First Round	
Ithaca 34	Wagner 31 (OT)
Ferrum 34	Rhodes 10
Moravian 17	Widener 7
Cortland State 32	Hofstra 27
Wittenberg 35	Dayton 28 (2 OT)
Augustana (IL) 25	Adrian 7
Central (IA) 7	Concordia (MN) 0
Wisconsin-Whitewater 29	Simpson 27
Quarterfinals	
Augustana (IL) 28	Wittenberg 14
Ithaca 24	Cortland State 17
Ferrum 49	Moravian 28
Central (IA) 16	Wisconsin-Whitewater 13
Semifinals	
Central (IA) 23	Augustana (IL) 17 (2 OT)
Ithaca 62	Ferrum 28
Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl	
Ithaca 39	Central (IA) 24

NAIA Division I Playoffs

First Round

Moorhead State 26	Mesa State 16
Adams State 14	Emporia State 10
Pittsburg State 38	Northern State 14
SE Oklahoma 21	Central Arkansas 14 (OT)
Hillsdale (MI) 42	Fairmont State 7
Carson-Newman 62	Concord 29
Central State (OH) 24	Catawba 10
Ark-Monticello 20	Washburn 13

Quarterfinals

Central State (OH) 14	Hillsdale (MI) 7
Carson-Newman 42	Moorhead State 6
Pittsburg State 23	Ark-Monticello 7
Adams State 38	SE Oklahoma 7

Semifinals

Carson-Newman 13	Central State (OH) 0
Adams State 13	Pittsburg State 10

Championship

Carson-Newman 56	Adams State 21
------------------	----------------

NAIA Division II Playoffs

First Round

Oregon Tech 56	Pacific Lutheran 35
Carroll (MT) 28	Central Washington 7
Northwestern (IA) 14	Sioux Falls 9
Wis-La Crosse 31	Valley City State 6
Evangel 45	Nebraska Wesleyan 14
Bethany (KS) 21	Baker 19
Bluffton 30	Cumberland (KY) 14
Westminster (PA) 34	Austin College 12

Quarterfinals

Oregon Tech 70	Carroll (MT) 35
Wis-La Crosse 45	Northwestern (IA) 33
Evangel 22	Bethany (KS) 10
Westminster (PA) 40	Bluffton 7

Semifinals

Wis-La Crosse 37	Oregon Tech 24
Westminster (PA) 26	Evangel 9
Westminster (PA) 21	Wis-La Crosse 14

Championship

Westminster (PA) 21

STARTING
SEPTEMBER 1, 1989

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NFC

STATISTICS

RECORDS

Points: 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960)
 Touchdowns: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)
 Field goals: 35, Ali Haji-Sheikh, New York (1983)
 Extra points: 62, Mark Moseley, Washington (1983)

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Rams	48	16	31	1	45	48	24	32	1	407
Minnesota	49	22	20	7	48	49	20	25	2	406
Philadelphia	44	17	25	2	42	43	23	32	2	379
San Francisco	41	18	21	2	40	41	27	38	1	369
Giants	41	15	22	4	39	41	24	30	1	359
Washington	41	8	33	0	40	41	19	26	1	345
Phoenix	44	15	26	3	42	44	12	21	1	344
Chicago	38	25	13	0	37	38	15	19	1	312
New Orleans	33	9	21	3	32	33	26	36	2	312
Dallas	32	10	21	1	32	32	13	25	1	265
Tampa Bay	28	11	16	1	28	28	21	30	1	261
Atlanta	27	11	13	3	25	27	19	30	0	244
Green Bay	29	14	13	2	23	29	13	25	2	240
Detroit	23	7	13	3	22	23	20	21	0	220

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Cofer, Mike, S.F.	40	41	27	38	121
Lansford, Mike, Rams	45	48	24	32	117
Andersen, Morten, N.O.	32	33	26	36	110
Nelson, Chuck, Minn.	48	49	20	25	108
Lohmiller, Chip, Wash.	40	41	19	26	97
Zendejas, Luis, Dall.-Phil.	35	36	20	27	95
Butler, Kevin, Chi.	37	38	15	19	82
Davis, Greg, Atl.	25	27	19	30	82
Murray, Ed, Det.	22	23	20	21	82
Del Greco, Al, Phoe.	42	44	12	21	78
Igwebuike, Donald, T.B.	21	21	19	25	78
McFadden, Paul, Giants	25	27	14	19	67
Ruzek, Roger, Dall.	27	27	12	22	63
Allegre, Raul, Giants	14	14	10	11	44
Zendejas, Max, G.B.	17	19	9	16	44
Dorsey, Dean, Phil.-G.B.	12	13	5	10	27
Dawson, Dale, Phil.-G.B.	4	5	3	6	13
Carney, John, T.B.	6	6	2	5	12
Burrow, Curtis, G.B.	2	4	0	1	2
Criswell, Ray, T.B.	1	1	0	0	1

NON-KICKERS

8 or more points	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Bell, Greg, Rams	18	16	2	0	108
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	12	12	0	0	72
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	12	0	12	0	72
Byars, Keith, Phil.	10	6	4	0	60
Craig, Roger, S.F.	10	9	1	0	60
Ellard, Henry, Rams	10	0	10	0	60
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	10	1	9	0	60
Ferrell, Earl, Phoe.	9	7	2	0	54
Hill, Bruce, T.B.	9	0	9	0	54
Anderson, Alfred, Minn.	8	7	1	0	48
Anderson, Ottis, Giants	8	8	0	0	48
Fullwood, Brent, G.B.	8	7	1	0	48
Settle, John, Atl.	8	7	1	0	48
Tate, Lars, T.B.	8	7	1	0	48
Baker, Stephen, Giants	7	0	7	0	42
Carter, Cris, Phil.	7	0	6	1	42
Clark, Gary, Wash.	7	0	7	0	42
Green, Roy, Phoe.	7	0	7	0	42
Hill, Lonzell, N.O.	7	0	7	0	42

SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Montana, Joe, S.F.	3	3	0	0	18
Newsome, Tim, Dall.	3	3	0	0	18
Robinson, Stacy, Giants	3	0	3	0	18
Sanders, Thomas, Chi.	3	3	0	0	18
Smith, Timmy, Wash.	3	3	0	0	18
West, Ed, G.B.	3	0	3	0	18
Wilson, Mike, S.F.	3	0	3	0	18
Bailey, Stacey, Atl.	2	0	2	0	12
Bland, Carl, Det.	2	0	2	0	12
Clark, Robert, N.O.	2	0	2	0	12
Delpino, Robert, Rams	2	0	2	0	12
Dixon, Floyd, Atl.	2	0	2	0	12
Dozier, D.J., Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
DuBose, Doug, S.F.	2	2	0	0	12
Folsom, Steve, Dall.	2	0	2	0	12
Higdon, Alex, Atl.	2	0	2	0	12
Jamison, George, Det.	2	0	0	2	12
Johnson, Ron, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Jones, Brent, S.F.	2	0	2	0	12
Lee, Carl, Minn.	2	0	0	2	12
Matthews, Aubrey, G.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Moorehead, Emery, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12
Morris, Jamie, Wash.	2	2	0	0	12
Orr, Terry, Wash.	2	0	2	0	12
Pelluer, Steve, Dall.	2	2	0	0	12
Perriman, Brett, N.O.	2	0	2	0	12
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	2	2	0	0	12
Suhey, Matt, Chi.	2	2	0	0	12
Wilson, Wade, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Wright, Randy, G.B.	2	2	0	0	12
Harris, Timothy, G.B.	1	0	0	1	*10
Noonan, Danny, Dall.	1	0	0	1	*8
Simmons, Clyde, Phil.	1	0	0	1	*8

Greg Bell



RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 407, James Wilder, Tampa Bay (1984)
 Yards: 2,105, Eric Dickerson, Los Angeles (1984)
 TDs: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
San Francisco	527	2523	4.8	149	18
Chicago	555	2319	4.2	180	25
New Orleans	512	2046	4.0	173	9
Phoenix	480	2027	4.2	47	15
Atlanta	478	2016	4.2	62	11
Rams	507	2003	4.0	44	16
Dallas	469	1995	4.3	38	10
Philadelphia	464	1945	4.2	52	17
Minnesota	501	1806	3.6	34	22
Tampa Bay	452	1753	3.9	147	11
Giants	493	1689	3.4	27	15
Washington	437	1543	3.5	29	8
Green Bay	385	1379	3.6	133	14
Detroit	391	1243	3.2	35	7
Walker, Herschel, <i>Dall.</i>	361	1514	4.2	38	5
Craig, Roger, <i>S.F.</i>	310	1502	4.8	146	9
Bell, Greg, <i>Rams</i>	288	1212	4.2	44	16
Anderson, Neal, <i>Chi.</i>	249	1106	4.4	180	12
Morris, Joe, <i>Giants</i>	307	1083	3.5	27	5
Settle, John, <i>Atl.</i>	232	1024	4.4	62	7
Ferrell, Earl, <i>Phoe.</i>	202	924	4.6	47	7
Hilliard, Dalton, <i>N.O.</i>	204	823	4.0	36	5
Mitchell, Stump, <i>Phoe.</i>	164	726	4.4	47	4
Mayes, Rueben, <i>N.O.</i>	170	628	3.7	21	3
Cunningham, Randall, <i>Phil.</i>	93	624	6.7	133	6
James, Garry, <i>Det.</i>	182	552	3.0	35	5
Byars, Keith, <i>Phil.</i>	152	517	3.4	52	6
Toney, Anthony, <i>Phil.</i>	139	502	3.6	20	4
Bryant, Kelvin, <i>Wash.</i>	108	498	4.6	25	1
Riggs, Gerald, <i>Atl.</i>	113	488	4.3	34	1
Fullwood, Brent, <i>G.B.</i>	101	483	4.8	133	7
Smith, Timmy, <i>Wash.</i>	155	470	3.0	29	3
Tate, Lars, <i>T.B.</i>	122	467	3.8	147	7
Howard, William, <i>T.B.</i>	115	452	3.9	129	1
Morris, Jamie, <i>Wash.</i>	126	437	3.5	127	2
Rathman, Tom, <i>S.F.</i>	102	427	4.2	26	2
Nelson, Darrin, <i>Minn.</i>	112	380	3.4	27	1
Heyward, Craig, <i>N.O.</i>	74	355	4.8	173	1
Wilder, James, <i>T.B.</i>	86	343	4.0	19	1
Sanders, Thomas, <i>Chi.</i>	95	332	3.5	120	3
White, Charles, <i>Rams</i>	88	323	3.7	13	0
Rice, Allen, <i>Minn.</i>	110	322	2.9	24	6
Jones, James, <i>Det.</i>	96	314	3.3	13	0
Pelluer, Steve, <i>Dall.</i>	51	314	6.2	27	2
Anderson, Alfred, <i>Minn.</i>	87	300	3.4	18	7
Fenney, Rick, <i>Minn.</i>	55	271	4.9	28	3
Suhay, Matt, <i>Chi.</i>	87	253	2.9	19	2
Goode, Kerry, <i>T.B.</i>	63	231	3.7	22	0
Majkowski, Don, <i>G.B.</i>	47	225	4.8	24	1
Anderson, Ottis, <i>Giants</i>	65	208	3.2	11	8
Paige, Tony, <i>Det.</i>	52	207	4.0	20	0
Muster, Brad, <i>Chi.</i>	44	197	4.5	15	0
Woodside, Keith, <i>G.B.</i>	83	195	2.3	10	3
Mason, Larry, <i>G.B.</i>	48	194	4.0	17	0
Lang, Gene, <i>Atl.</i>	53	191	3.6	19	0
Haddix, Michael, <i>Phil.</i>	57	185	3.2	15	0
Young, Steve, <i>S.F.</i>	27	184	6.8	149	1
Dozier, D.J., <i>Minn.</i>	42	167	4.0	119	2
Jordan, Tony, <i>Phoe.</i>	61	160	2.6	12	3
Simms, Phil, <i>Giants</i>	33	152	4.6	17	0
Harris, Darryl, <i>Minn.</i>	34	151	4.4	34	1
Delpino, Robert, <i>Rams</i>	34	147	4.3	13	0
Carthon, Maurice, <i>Giants</i>	46	146	3.2	8	2
Miller, Chris, <i>All.</i>	31	138	4.5	29	1
Testaverde, Vinny, <i>T.B.</i>	28	138	4.9	24	1
Wilson, Wade, <i>Minn.</i>	36	136	3.8	15	2
Montana, Joe, <i>S.F.</i>	38	132	3.5	15	3
Davis, Kenneth, <i>G.B.</i>	39	121	3.1	27	1
Green, Gaston, <i>Rams</i>	35	117	3.3	13	0

continued

PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 347, Steve DeBerg, San Francisco (1979)
 Touchdowns: 36, Y.A. Tittle, New York (1963)
 Yards: 4,614, Neil Lomax, St. Louis (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Frank Filchock to Andy Farkas, Washington (1939)

99 yards, George Izo to Bobby Mitchell, Washington (1963)

99 yards, Karl Sweeten to Pat Studstill, Detroit (1966)

99 yards, Sonny Jurgensen to Gerry Allen, Washington (1968)

99 yards, Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia (1985)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT	TD	LONG	INT	PCT	INT	SACK	YDS	LOST	RATING
Wilson, Wade, <i>Minn.</i>	332	204	61.4	2746	8.27	15	4.5	168	9	2.7	33	227	91.5			
Everett, Jim, <i>Rams</i>	517	308	59.6	3964	7.67	31	6.0	169	18	3.5	28	197	89.2			
Montana, Joe, <i>S.F.</i>	397	238	59.9	2981	7.51	18	4.5	196	10	2.5	34	223	87.9			
Lomax, Neil, <i>Phoe.</i>	443	255	57.6	3395	7.66	20	4.5	193	11	2.5	46	315	86.7			
Simms, Phil, <i>Giants</i>	479	263	54.9	3359	7.01	21	4.4	162	11	2.3	53	405	82.1			
Hebert, Bobby, <i>N.D.</i>	478	280	58.6	3156	6.60	20	4.2	140	15	3.1	24	171	79.3			
Cunningham, Randall, <i>Phil.</i>	560	301	53.8	3808	6.80	24	4.3	180	16	2.9	57	442	77.6			
Williams, Doug, <i>Wash.</i>	380	213	56.1	2609	6.87	15	3.9	58	12	3.2	10	88	77.4			
Pelluer, Steve, <i>Dall.</i>	435	245	56.3	3139	7.22	17	3.9	161	19	4.4	21	112	73.9			
Majkowski, Don, <i>G.B.</i>	336	178	53.0	2119	6.31	9	2.7	56	11	3.3	31	176	67.8			
Miller, Chris, <i>Atl.</i>	351	184	52.4	2133	6.08	11	3.1	168	12	3.4	24	207	67.3			
Wright, Randy, <i>G.B.</i>	244	141	57.8	1490	6.11	4	1.6	51	13	5.3	20	148	58.9			
Hilger, Rusty, <i>Det.</i>	306	126	41.2	1558	5.09	7	2.3	56	12	3.9	31	251	48.9			
Testaverde, Vinny, <i>T.B.</i>	466	222	47.6	3240	6.95	13	2.8	159	35	7.5	33	292	48.8			

NON-QUALIFIERS (16 or more attempts)

Ferguson, Joe, <i>T.B.</i>	46	31	67.4	368	8.00	3	6.5	34	1	2.2	1	8	104.3		
Rypien, Mark, <i>Wash.</i>	208	114	54.8	1730	8.32	18	8.7	160	13	6.3	14	115	85.2		
McMahon, Jim, <i>Chi.</i>	192	114	59.4	1346	7.01	6	3.1	163	7	3.6	13	79	76.0		
Tomczak, Mike, <i>Chi.</i>	170	86	50.6	1310	7.71	7	4.1	176	6	3.5	5	47	75.4		
Young, Steve, <i>S.F.</i>	101	54	53.5	680	6.73	3	3.0	173	3	3.0	13	75	72.2		
Long, Chuck, <i>Del.</i>	141	75	53.2	856	6.07	6	4.3	40	6	4.3	18	134	68.2		
Gannon, Rich, <i>Minn.</i>	15	7	46.7	90	6.00	0	0.0	19	0	0.0	3	22	66.0		
Hosteller, Jeff, <i>Giants</i>	29	16	55.2	244	8.41	1	3.4	185	2	6.9	5	31	65.9		
White, Danny, <i>Dall.</i>	42	29	69.0	274	6.52	1	2.4	24	3	7.1	5	47	65.0		
Stoudt, Cliff, <i>Phoe.</i>	113	63	55.8	747	6.61	6	5.3	152	8	7.1	13	85	64.3		
Hipple, Eric, <i>Det.</i>	27	12	44.4	158	5.85	0	0.0	31	0	0.0	3	25	63.5		
Kramer, Tommy, <i>Minn.</i>	173	83	48.0	1264	7.31	5	2.9	47	9	5.2	11	62	60.5		
Cavanaugh, Matt, <i>Phil.</i>	16	7	43.8	101	6.31	1	6.3	42	1	6.3	0	0	59.6		
Rutledge, Jeff, <i>Giants</i>	17	11	64.7	113	6.65	0	0.0	33	1	5.9	2	14	59.2		
Harbaugh, Jim, <i>Chi.</i>	97	47	48.5	514	5.30	0	0.0	56	2	2.1	6	49	55.9		
Dills, Steve, <i>Atl.</i>	99	49	49.5	566	5.72	2	2.0	50	5	5.1	15	112	52.8		
Millen, Hugh, <i>Atl.</i>	31	17	54.8	215	6.94	0	0.0	38	2	6.5	4	29	49.8		
Sweeney, Kevin, <i>Dall.</i>	78	33	42.3	314	4.03	3	3.8	28	5	6.4	9	80	40.2		
Wilson, Dave, <i>N.O.</i>	16	5	31.3	73	4.56	0	0.0	25	1	6.3	0	0	21.1		

PUNTING

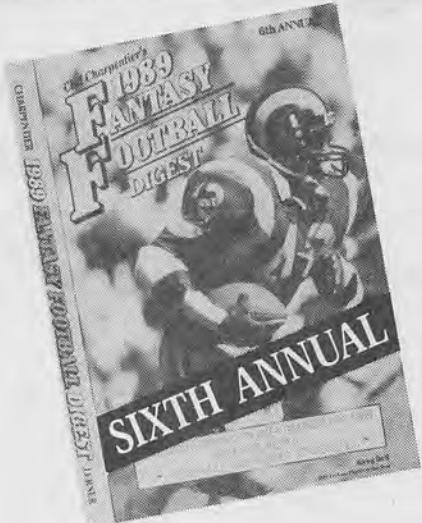
RECORDS

Number: 114, Bob Parsons, Chicago (1981)

Average: 51.4 yards, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)

Longest: 94 yards, Joe Lintzenich, Chicago (1931)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP	RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Arnold, Jim, <i>Det.</i>	97	4110	69	42.4	7	0	57	483	22	35.9	
Wagner, Bryan, <i>Chi.</i>	79	3282	70	41.5	10	0	40	447	18	33.4	
Buford, Maury, <i>Giants</i>	73	3012	66	41.3	10	2	36	296	13	33.5	
Saxon, Mike, <i>Dall.</i>	80	3271	55	40.9	15	0	37	239	24	34.2	
Horne, Greg, <i>Phoe.</i>	79	3228	66	40.9	9	1	41	416	16	32.9	
Hansen, Brian, <i>N.O.</i>	72	2913	64	40.5	8	1	39	248	19	34.3	
Telschik, John, <i>Phil.</i>	98	3958	70	40.4	8	3	45	375	28	33.9	
Scribner, Bucky, <i>Minn.</i>	84	3387	55	40.3	9	2	39	405	23	32.6	
Donnelly, Rick, <i>All.</i>	98	3920	61	40.0	6	0	51	297	27	35.7	
Camarillo, Rich, <i>Rams</i>	40	1579	57	39.5	2	0	26	145	11	34.8	
Helton, Barry, <i>S.F.</i>	78	3069	53	39.3	5	1	47</td				



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TOTAL ORDER \$		
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Address _____		
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Telephone (_____) _____		
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NFC statistics

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Dubose, Doug, S.F.	24	116	4.8	137	2
Jordan, Buford, N.O.	19	115	6.1	44	0
Carruth, Paul Ott, G.B.	49	114	2.3	14	0
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.	19	110	5.8	19	1
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	13	107	8.2	29	1
Everett, Jim, Rams	34	104	3.1	19	0
McMahon, Jim, Chi.	26	104	4.0	16	4
Primus, James, Atl.	35	95	2.7	129	1
Smith, Jeff, T.B.	20	87	4.4	23	0
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	7	86	12.3	158	1
Hebert, Bobby, N.O.	37	79	2.1	16	0
Adams, George, Giants	29	76	2.6	15	0
Newsome, Tim, Dall.	32	75	2.3	8	3
Dixon, Floyd, Atl.	7	69	9.9	24	0
McGee, Buford, Rams	22	69	3.1	12	0
Stoudt, Cliff, Phoe.	14	57	4.1	14	0
Lomax, Neil, Phoe.	17	55	3.2	13	1
Clack, Darryl, Dall.	11	54	4.9	17	0
Sydney, Harry, S.F.	9	50	5.6	13	0
Monk, Art, Wash.	7	46	6.6	23	0
Smith, Don, T.B.	13	46	3.5	15	1
Mandley, Pete, Det.	6	44	7.3	121	1
Wolfley, Ron, Phoe.	9	43	4.8	20	0
Wright, Randy, G.B.	8	43	5.4	19	2
Painter, Carl, Det.	17	42	2.5	13	0
Carter, Anthony, Minn.	4	41	10.3	21	0
Morris, Ron, Chi.	3	40	13.3	21	0
Tomczak, Mike, Chi.	13	40	3.1	17	1
Hoage, Terry, Phil.	1	38	38.0	138	1
Teltschik, John, Phil.	2	36	18.0	23	0
Sweeney, Kevin, Dall.	6	34	5.7	10	0
Rypien, Mark, Wash.	9	31	3.4	119	1
Oliphant, Mike, Wash.	8	30	3.8	20	0
Gannon, Rich, Minn.	4	29	7.3	15	0
Tautalasi, Junior, Phil.	14	28	2.0	9	0
Hilger, Rusty, Det.	18	27	1.5	11	0
Manuel, Lionel, Giants	4	27	6.8	14	0
McKinnon, Dennis, Chi.	3	25	8.3	12	1
Brown, Ron, Rams	3	24	8.0	13	0
Griffin, Keith, Wash.	6	23	3.8	9	0
Long, Chuck, Det.	7	22	3.1	11	0
Williams, Scott, Det.	9	22	2.4	5	1
Horne, Greg, Phoe.	3	20	6.7	20	0
Perriman, Brett, N.O.	3	17	5.7	17	0
Smith, J.T., Phoe.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Abercrombie, Walter, Phil.	5	14	2.8	5	0
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	2	14	7.0	7	0
Martin, Eric, N.O.	2	12	6.0	9	0
Hansen, Brian, N.O.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Novacek, Jay, Phoe.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Del Greco, Al, Phoe.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Jeffery, Tony, Phoe.	3	8	2.7	9	0
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	14	8	0.6	5	0
Ellard, Henry, Rams	1	7	7.0	7	0
Hill, Lonzell, N.O.	2	7	3.5	5	0
Jones, Hassan, Minn.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Millen, Hugh, Atl.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Clark, Gary, Wash.	2	6	3.0	4	0
Fowler, Todd, Dall.	3	6	2.0	4	0
Flagler, Terrence, S.F.	3	5	1.7	4	0
Hipple, Eric, Det.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Bland, Carl, Det.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Woolfolk, Butch, Det.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Davis, Wendell, Chi.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Hester, Jessie, Atl.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Kozlowski, Glen, Chi.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Mathews, Aubrey, G.B.	3	3	1.0	4	0
Collins, Patrick, G.B.	2	2	1.0	2	0
Irvin, Michael, Dall.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Archer, David, Wash.	3	1	0.3	4	0
Carter, Cris, Phil.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Dils, Steve, Atl.	2	1	0.5	11	1
Green, Roy, Phoe.	4	1	0.3	18	0
Guman, Mike, Rams	1	1	1.0	1	0
Rouson, Lee, Giants	1	1	1.0	1	0
Stanley, Walter, G.B.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Criswell, Ray, T.B.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Ferguson, Joe, T.B.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Helton, Barry, S.F.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Scribner, Bucky, Minn.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Stamps, Sylvester, Atl.	3	0	0.0	3	0
Wagner, Bryan, Chi.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Williams, Doug, Wash.	9	0	0.0	4	1

	ATT	YARDS	Avg	Long	TD
Witkowski, John, Det.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Herrmann, Mark, Rams	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Rutledge, Jeff, Giants	3	-1	-0.3	0	0
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	4	-2	-0.5	5	0
Hostetter, Jeff, Giants	5	-3	-0.6	0	0
Martin, Kelvin, Dall.	4	-4	-1.0	11	0
Mularkey, Mike, Minn.	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0
Hill, Bruce, T.B.	2	-11	-5.5	3	0
Coleman, Greg, Wash.	2	-13	-6.5	0	0

PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 106, Art Monk, Washington (1984)
 Yards: 1,570, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1986)
 TDs: 22, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1987)

	NO	YARDS	Avg	Long	TD
Ellard, Henry, Rams	86	1414	16.4	68	10
Martin, Eric, N.O.	85	1083	12.7	140	7
Smith, J.T., Phoe.	83	986	11.9	29	5
Jackson, Keith, Phil.	81	869	10.7	41	6
Craig, Roger, S.F.	76	534	7.0	22	1
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	73	1148	15.7	155	12
Carter, Anthony, Minn.	72	1225	17.0	167	6
Monk, Art, Wash.	72	946	13.1	146	5
Byars, Keith, Phil.	72	705	9.8	137	4
Green, Roy, Phoe.	68	1097	16.1	52	7
Settle, John, Atl.	68	570	8.4	27	1
Hill, Lonzell, N.O.	66	703	10.7	35	7
Manuel, Lionel, Giants	65	1029	15.8	46	4
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	64	1306	20.4	196	9
Clark, Gary, Wash.	59	892	15.1	160	7
Holahan, Pete, Rams	59	640	10.8	29	3
Hill, Bruce, T.B.	58	1040	17.9	142	9
Carrier, Mark, T.B.	57	970	17.0	159	5
Jordan, Steve, Minn.	57	756	13.3	38	5
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	55	791	14.4	51	1
Alexander, Ray, Dall.	54	788	14.6	150	6
Bavaro, Mark, Giants	53	672	12.7	36	4
Walker, Herschel, Dall.	53	505	9.5	50	2
Martin, Kelvin, Dall.	49	622	12.7	135	3
Kemp, Perry, G.B.	48	620	12.9	36	0
McKinnon, Dennis, Chi.	45	704	15.6	176	3
Mandley, Pete, Det.	44	617	14.0	56	4
Bryant, Kelvin, Wash.	42	447	10.6	47	5
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	42	382	9.1	24	0
Johnson, Damone, Rams	42	350	8.3	23	6
Jones, Hassan, Minn.	40	778	19.5	168	5
Baker, Stephen, Giants	40	656	16.4	185	7
Carter, Cris, Phil.	39	761	19.5	180	6
Hall, Ron, T.B.	39	555	14.2	37	0
Awalt, Robert, Phoe.	39	454	11.6	152	4
James, Garry, Det.	39	382	9.8	139	2
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	39	371	9.5	36	0
Woodside, Keith, G.B.	39	352	9.0	149	2
Novacek, Jay, Phoe.	38	569	15.0	142	4
Ferrell, Earl, Phoe.	38	315	8.3	30	2
Lang, Gene, Atl.	37	398	10.8	50	1
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	34	335	9.9	26	1
Toney, Anthony, Phil.	34	256	7.5	24	1
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	33	486	14.7	45	3
Wilson, Mike, S.F.	33	405	12.3	31	3
Irvin, Michael, Dall.	32	654	20.4	161	5
Delpino, Robert, Rams	30	312	10.4	38	2
Rice, Allen, Minn.	30	279	9.3	38	0
West, Ed, G.B.	30	276	9.2	35	3
Newsome, Tim, Dall.	30	236	7.9	32	0
Jones, James, Det.	29	259	8.9	40	0
Cox, Aaron, Rams	28	590	21.1	169	5
Morris, Ron, Chi.	28	498	17.8	163	4
Stanley, Walter, G.B.	28	436	15.6	56	0
Dixon, Floyd, Atl.	28	368	13.1	36	2
Adams, George, Giants	27	174	6.4	19	0
Tice, John, N.O.	26	297	11.4	40	1
Mitchell, Stump, Phoe.	25	214	8.6	28	1
Carruth, Paul Ott, G.B.	24	211	8.8	31	0
Bell, Greg, Rams	24	124	5.2	20	2
Jones, Ernie, Phoe.	23	496	21.6	193	3
McEwen, Craig, Wash.	23	323	14.0	46	0
Anderson, Alfred, Minn.	23	242	10.5	19	1
Quick, Mike, Phil.	22	508	23.1	155	4
Lee, Gary, Det.	22	261	11.9	18	1
Riggs, Gerald, Atl.	22	171	7.8	30	0

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NFC statistics

	NO	YARDS	Avg	Long	TD
Morris, Joe, <i>Giants</i>	22	166	7.5	24	0
Bland, Carl, <i>Det.</i>	21	307	14.6	35	2
Muster, Brad, <i>Chi.</i>	21	236	11.2	140	1
Chadwick, Jeff, <i>Det.</i>	20	304	15.2	32	3
Scott, Patrick, <i>G.B.</i>	20	275	13.8	41	1
Matthews, Aubrey, <i>Att.-G.B.</i>	20	231	11.6	25	2
Suhey, Matt, <i>Chi.</i>	20	154	7.7	29	0
Fullwood, Brent, <i>G.B.</i>	20	128	6.4	130	1
Johnson, Ron, <i>Phil.</i>	19	417	21.9	54	2
Clark, Robert, <i>N.O.</i>	19	245	12.9	121	2
Carthon, Maurice, <i>Giants</i>	19	194	10.2	24	1
Chandler, Thornton, <i>Dall.</i>	18	186	10.3	29	1
Bailey, Stacey, <i>Att.</i>	17	437	25.7	168	2
Garrity, Gregg, <i>Phil.</i>	17	208	12.2	20	1
Clack, Darryl, <i>Dall.</i>	17	126	7.4	18	1
Perriman, Brett, <i>N.O.</i>	16	215	13.4	33	2
Frank, John, <i>S.F.</i>	16	195	12.2	38	3
Whisenhunt, Ken, <i>Att.</i>	16	174	10.9	25	1
Smith, Jeff, <i>T.B.</i>	16	134	8.4	22	0
McGee, Buford, <i>Rams</i>	16	117	7.3	16	3
Nelson, Darrin, <i>Minn.</i>	16	105	6.6	27	0
Gustafson, Jim, <i>Minn.</i>	15	231	15.4	47	1
Fenney, Rick, <i>Minn.</i>	15	224	14.9	42	0
Davis, Wendell, <i>Chi.</i>	15	220	14.7	36	0
Pillow, Frank, <i>T.B.</i>	15	206	13.7	34	1
Gay, Everett, <i>Dall.</i>	15	205	13.7	25	1
Mowatt, Zeke, <i>Giants</i>	15	196	13.1	138	1
Thornton, James, <i>Chi.</i>	15	135	9.0	19	0
Wilder, James, <i>T.B.</i>	15	124	8.3	24	0
Oliphant, Mike, <i>Wash.</i>	15	111	7.4	16	0
Taylor, John, <i>S.F.</i>	14	325	23.2	173	2
Heller, Ron, <i>S.F.</i>	14	140	10.0	22	0
Moorehead, Emery, <i>Chi.</i>	14	133	9.5	28	2
Haynes, Michael, <i>Att.</i>	13	232	17.8	149	4
Ingram, Mark, <i>Giants</i>	13	158	12.2	32	1
Carter, Pat, <i>Det.</i>	13	145	11.2	31	0
Heyward, Craig, <i>N.O.</i>	13	105	8.1	18	0
Hester, Jessie, <i>Att.</i>	12	176	14.7	41	0
Smith, Don, <i>T.B.</i>	12	138	11.5	25	0
Costbie, Doug, <i>Dall.</i>	12	112	9.3	21	0
Warren, Don, <i>Wash.</i>	12	112	9.3	32	0
Haddix, Michael, <i>Phil.</i>	12	82	6.8	14	0
Anderson, Willie, <i>Rams</i>	11	319	29.0	56	0
Orr, Terry, <i>Wash.</i>	11	222	20.2	58	2
Lewis, Leo, <i>Minn.</i>	11	141	12.8	146	1
Wilkins, Gary, <i>Att.</i>	11	134	12.2	33	0
Mayes, Ruben, <i>N.O.</i>	11	103	9.4	25	0
Paige, Tony, <i>Det.</i>	11	100	9.1	15	0
Epps, Phillip, <i>G.B.</i>	11	99	9.0	25	0
Howard, William, <i>T.B.</i>	11	97	8.8	16	0
Davis, Kenneth, <i>G.B.</i>	11	81	7.4	11	0
Turner, Odessa, <i>Giants</i>	10	128	12.8	128	1
Fowler, Todd, <i>Dall.</i>	10	64	6.4	13	0
Magee, Calvin, <i>T.B.</i>	9	103	11.4	25	0
Sanders, Thomas, <i>Chi.</i>	9	94	10.4	39	0
Folsom, Steve, <i>Dall.</i>	9	84	9.3	20	2
Anderson, Ottis, <i>Giants</i>	9	57	6.3	13	0
Starring, Stephen, <i>T.B.-Det.</i>	8	164	20.5	53	0
Greer, Terry, <i>S.F.</i>	8	120	15.0	31	0
Mason, Larry, <i>G.B.</i>	8	84	10.5	39	1
Jones, Brent, <i>S.F.</i>	8	57	7.1	118	2
Smith, Timmy, <i>Wash.</i>	8	53	6.6	16	0
Primus, James, <i>Att.</i>	8	42	5.3	8	0
Robinson, Stacey, <i>Giants</i>	7	143	20.4	162	3
Goode, Kerry, <i>T.B.</i>	7	68	9.7	22	0
DuBose, Doug, <i>S.F.</i>	6	57	9.5	13	0
Giles, Jimmie, <i>Phil.</i>	6	57	9.5	17	1
Green, Gaston, <i>Rams</i>	6	57	9.5	19	0
Boso, Cap, <i>Chi.</i>	6	50	8.3	15	0
White, Charles, <i>Rams</i>	6	36	6.0	18	0
Harris, Darryl, <i>Minn.</i>	6	30	5.0	7	0
Edwards, Kelvin, <i>Dall.</i>	5	93	18.6	27	0
McConkey, Phil, <i>Giants</i>	5	72	14.4	28	0
Jordan, Buford, <i>N.O.</i>	5	70	14.0	25	0
Brenner, Hoby, <i>N.O.</i>	5	67	13.4	24	0
Milling, James, <i>Att.</i>	5	66	13.2	34	0
Taylor, Gene, <i>T.B.</i>	5	53	10.6	14	0
Dozier, D. J., <i>Minn.</i>	5	49	9.8	20	0
Allen, Anthony, <i>Wash.</i>	5	48	9.6	18	1
Tautalatasi, Junior, <i>Phil.</i>	5	48	9.6	21	0
Didier, Clint, <i>G.B.</i>	5	37	7.4	15	1
Tate, Lars, <i>T.B.</i>	5	23	4.6	9	1
Stamps, Sylvester, <i>Att.</i>	5	22	4.4	7	0

PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 70, Danny Reece, Tampa Bay (1979)

Yards: 646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1976)

Longest for TD: 98 yards

Gill Lefebvre, Cincinnati (1933)

Charlie West, Minnesota (1968)

Dennis Morgan, Dallas (1974)

5 or more	NO	FC	YARDS	Avg	LONG	TD
Taylor, John, <i>S.F.</i>	44	7	556	12.6	195	2
Gray, Mel, <i>N.O.</i>	25	8	305	12.2	166	1
Futrell, Bobby, <i>T.B.</i>	27	10	283	10.5	40	0
Sikahema, Vai, <i>Phoe.</i>	33	8	341	10.3	28	0
Lewis, Leo, <i>Minn.</i>	58	19	550	9.5	64	0
Barnes, Lew, <i>Att.</i>	34	8	307	9.0	68	0
Martin, Kelvin, <i>Dall.</i>	44	15	360	8.2	21	0
McKinnon, Dennis, <i>Chi.</i>	34	8	277	8.1	23	0
McConkey, Phil, <i>Giants</i>	40	25	313	7.8	35	0
Mandley, Pete, <i>Det.</i>	37	7	287	7.8	25	0
Konecny, Mark, <i>Phil.</i>	33	25	233	7.1	24	0
Hicks, Cliff, <i>Rams</i>	25	0	144	5.8	13	0

NON-QUALIFIERS

Ellard, Henry, <i>Rams</i>	17	3	119	7.0	34	0
Smith, J. T., <i>Phoe.</i>	17	2	119	7.0	15	0
Shepard, Derrick, <i>Wash.</i>	12	2	104	8.7	23	0
Stanley, Walter, <i>G.B.</i>	12	3	52	4.3	15	0
Hill, Lonzell, <i>N.O.</i>	10	4	108	10.8	31	0
Allen, Anthony, <i>Wash.</i>	10	2	62	6.2	14	0
Green, Darrell, <i>Wash.</i>	9	0	103	11.4	32	0
Pitts, Ron, <i>G.B.</i>	9	6	93	10.3	163	1
Sharpe, Sterling, <i>G.B.</i>	9	7	48	5.3	14	0
Clark, Gary, <i>Wash.</i>	8	3	48	6.0	34	0
Smith, Jeff, <i>T.B.</i>	8	3	45	5.6	20	0
Oliphant, Mike, <i>Wash.</i>	7	0	24	3.4	11	0
Chandler, Wes, <i>S.F.</i>	6	5	28	4.7	13	0
Matthews, Aubrey, <i>Att.</i>	6	0	26	4.3	10	0
Bland, Carl, <i>Det.</i>	5	1	59	11.8	24	0
Baker, Stephen, <i>Giants</i>	5	0	34	6.8	11	0
Jefferson, Norman, <i>G.B.</i>	5	2	15	3.0	9	0

INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Number: 14, Dick Lane, Los Angeles (1952)

Yards: 301, Don Doll, Detroit (1949)

Longest return: 102 yards

Bob Smith, Detroit (1949)

Erich Barnes, New York (1961)

TDs: 3, Dick Lynch, New York (1963)
3, Herb Adderley, Green Bay (1965)
3, Monte Jackson, Los Angeles (1976)
3, Rod Perry, Los Angeles (1976)
3, Ronnie Lott, San Francisco (1981)

	NO	YARDS	Avg	LONG	TD
Case, Scott, <i>Att.</i>	10	47	4.7	12	0
Lee, Carl, <i>Minn.</i>	8	118	14.8	158	2
Hoage, Terry, <i>Phil.</i>	8	116	14.5	38	0
Jackson, Vester, <i>Chi.</i>	8	94	11.8	46	0
McKyer, Tim, <i>S.F.</i>	7	11	1.6	7	0
Hamilton, Harry, <i>T.B.</i>	6	123	20.5	58	0
Allen, Eric, <i>Phil.</i>	5	76	15.2	21	0
Lott, Ronnie, <i>S.F.</i>	5	59	11.8	44	0
Moore, Robert, <i>Att.</i>	5	56	11.2	147	1
Browner, Joey, <i>Minn.</i>	5	29	5.8	18	0
Hopkins, Wes, <i>Phil.</i>	5	21	4.2	11	0
Murphy, Mark, <i>G.B.</i>	5	19	3.8	9	0
Joyner, Seth, <i>Phil.</i>	4	96	24.0	30	0
Solomon, Jesse, <i>Minn.</i>	4	84	21.0	178	1
White, Sheldon, <i>Giants</i>	4	70	17.5	39	0
Cecil, Chuck, <i>G.B.</i>	4	56	14.0	33	0
Atkins, Gene, <i>N.O.</i>	4	42	10.5	40	0
Clark, Bret, <i>Att.</i>	4	40	10.0	21	0
Tate, David, <i>Chi.</i>	4	35	8.8	17	0
Wilburn, Barry, <i>Wash.</i>	4	24	6.0	14	0
Fuller, Jeff, <i>S.F.</i>	4	18	4.5	10	0
Johnson, Johnnie, <i>Rams</i>	4	18	4.5	11	0
Reynolds, Ricky, <i>T.B.</i>	4	7	1.8	7	0
Mitchell, Devon, <i>Det.</i>	3	107	35.7	190	1
Waymer, Dave, <i>N.O.</i>	3	91	30.3	44	0
Gray, Jerry, <i>Rams</i>	3	83	27.7	147	1
Rutland, Reggie, <i>Minn.</i>	3	63	21.0	36	0

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jakes, Van, N.O.	3	61	20.3	39	0
Marshall, Wilber, Wash.	3	61	20.3	43	0
Fullington, Darrell, Minn.	3	57	19.0	40	0
Jamison, George, Det.	3	56	18.7	152	1
Walton, Alvin, Wash.	3	54	18.0	29	0
Harris, John, Minn.	3	46	15.3	27	0
Kinard, Terry, Giants	3	46	15.3	39	0
Lee, Mark, G.B.	3	37	12.3	27	0
Mack, Cedric, Phoe.	3	33	11.0	12	0
Sutton, Reggie, N.O.	3	32	10.7	34	0
Stills, Ken, G.B.	3	29	9.7	17	0
Brown, Dave, G.B.	3	27	9.0	15	0
Irvin, LeRoy, Rams	3	25	8.3	22	0
Frizzell, William, Phil.	3	19	6.3	13	0
Waters, Andre, Phil.	3	19	6.3	14	0
Howard, David, Minn.	3	16	5.3	10	0
Morrissey, Jim, Chi.	3	13	4.3	13	0
Elder, Donnie, T.B.	3	9	3.0	9	0
Carter, Carl, Phoe.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Carson, Harry, Giants	2	66	33.0	66	0
Stewart, Michael, Rams	2	61	30.5	43	0
Pitts, Ron, G.B.	2	56	28.0	31	0
Edwards, Brad, Minn.	2	47	23.5	137	1
Griffin, James, Det.	2	31	15.5	31	0
Robinson, Mark, T.B.	2	28	14.0	28	0
Newman, Anthony, Rams	2	27	13.5	27	0
Harris, Odie, T.B.	2	26	13.0	24	0
Duerson, Dave, Chi.	2	18	9.0	18	0
Williams, Robert, Dall.	2	18	9.0	12	0
Holt, Issiac, Minn.	2	15	7.5	15	0
Kelm, Larry, Rams	2	15	7.5	9	0
Richardson, Mike, Chi.	2	15	7.5	15	0
Krumm, Todd, Chi.	2	14	7.0	14	0
Blades, Bennie, Del.	2	12	6.0	7	0
McDonald, Tim, Phoe.	2	11	5.5	11	0
Bruce, Audray, Atl.	2	10	5.0	10	0
Gordon, Tim, Atl.	2	10	5.0	7	0
Young, Roynell, Phil.	2	5	2.5	5	0
Downs, Michael, Dall.	2	3	1.5	3	0
Cherry, Raphael, Det.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Holmoe, Tom, S.F.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Lyles, Lester, Phoe.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Rivera, Ron, Chi.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Walls, Eversol, Dall.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Wright, Eric, S.F.	2	-2	-1.0	0	0
Ashley, Walker, Minn.	1	94	94.0	194	1
Douglass, Maurice, Chi.	1	35	35.0	35	0
Murphy, Kevin, T.B.	1	35	35.0	135	1
Johnson, Vaughan, N.O.	1	34	34.0	34	0
Johnson, Pepper, Giants	1	33	33.0	133	1
Holmes, Jerry, Det.	1	32	32.0	32	0
Francis, Ron, Dall.	1	29	29.0	29	0
Marve, Eugene, T.B.	1	29	29.0	29	0
White, Adrian, Giants	1	29	29.0	29	0
Futrell, Bobby, T.B.	1	26	26.0	26	0
Butler, Bobby, Atl.	1	22	22.0	22	0
Bowles, Todd, Wash.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Meisner, Greg, Rams	1	20	20.0	20	0
Reasons, Gary, Giants	1	20	20.0	20	0
Mack, Milton, N.O.	1	19	19.0	19	0
Curtis, Travis, Phoe.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Noonan, Danny, Dall.	1	17	17.0	17	1
Jackson, Rickey, N.O.	1	16	16.0	16	0
Banks, Carl, Giants	1	15	15.0	115	1
Collins, Mark, Giants	1	13	13.0	13	0
Henderson, Wymon, Minn.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Singleton, Mike, Chi.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Green, Darrell, Wash.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Coleman, Monte, Wash.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Davis, Brian, Wash.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Owens, Mel, Rams	1	11	11.0	11	0
Greene, Kevin, Rams	1	10	10.0	10	0
Clasby, Bob, Phoe.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Thomas, Henry, Minn.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Washington, James, Rams	1	7	7.0	7	0
Williams, Jimmy, Det.	1	5	5.0	5	0
McNorton, Bruce, Det.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Junior, E. J., Phoe.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Turner, Keena, S.F.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Young, Lonnie, Phoe.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Sutton, Mickey, Rams	1	1	1.0	1	0
Bates, Bill, Dall.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Carter, Michael, S.F.	1	0	0.0	0	0

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NFC statistics

	NO	YARDS	Avg	Long	TD
Cook, Toi, N.O.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Everett, Eric, Phil.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Gayle, Shaun, Chi.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Hendrix, Manuel, Dall.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jerue, Mark, Rams	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jones, Rod, T.B.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Mitchell, Roland, Phoe.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Williams, Perry, Giants	1	0	0.0	0	0
Brown, Jerome, Phil.	1	-5	-5.0	-5	0
Bell, Todd, Phil.	0	24	—	24	0
Newsome, Vince, Rams	0	3	—	3	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 60, Drew Hill, Los Angeles (1981)

Yards: 1,345 Buster Rhymes, Minnesota (1985)

Longest: 106 yards

Al Carmichael, Green Bay (1956)

Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)

TDs: 4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967)

4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)

3 or more	NO	YARDS	Avg	Long	TD
Elder, Donnie, T.B.	34	772	22.7	51	0
Burbage, Cornell, Dall.	20	448	22.4	53	0
Clack, Darryl, Dall.	32	690	21.6	40	0
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	27	578	21.4	51	0
Harris, Darryl, Minn.	39	833	21.4	30	0
Atkins, Gene, N.O.	20	424	21.2	57	0
Gray, Mel, N.O.	32	670	20.9	39	0
Sikahema, Vai, Phoe.	23	475	20.7	39	0
Fullwood, Brent, G.B.	21	421	20.0	31	0
Morris, Jamie, Wash.	21	413	19.7	35	0
Dubose, Doug, S.F.	32	608	19.0	44	0
Beals, Shawn, Phil.	34	625	18.4	32	0

NON-QUALIFIERS

Brown, Ron, Rams	19	401	21.1	73	0
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	19	362	19.1	31	0
Woodside, Keith, G.B.	19	343	18.1	29	0
Lee, Gary, Del.	18	355	19.7	39	0
Painter, Carl, Del.	17	347	20.4	32	0
Green, Gaston, Rams	17	345	20.3	44	0
Guggemos, Neal, Giants	17	344	20.2	40	0
Konecny, Mark, Phil.	17	276	16.2	25	0
Cooper, Evan, Atl.	16	331	20.7	28	0
Shepard, Derrick, Wash.	16	329	20.6	44	0
Delpino, Robert, Rams	14	333	23.8	38	0
Gordon, Tim, Atl.	14	209	14.9	32	0
McAdoo, Derrick, T.B.-Phoe.	13	311	23.9	32	0
Hill, Kenny, Giants	13	262	20.2	30	0
Morris, Randall, Sea.-Del.	13	259	19.9	30	0
Sanders, Thomas, Chi.	13	248	19.1	38	0
Taylor, John, S.F.	12	225	18.8	29	0
Stamps, Sylvester, Atl.	12	219	18.3	27	0
Martin, Kelvin, Dall.	12	210	17.5	31	0
Scott, Patrick, G.B.	12	207	17.3	27	0
Jones, Ernie, Phoe.	11	147	13.4	22	0
Mitchell, Stump, Phoe.	10	221	22.1	41	0
Smith, Jeff, T.B.	10	180	18.0	26	0
Nelson, Darrin, Minn.	9	210	23.3	30	0
Smith, Don, T.B.	9	188	20.9	30	0
Bland, Carl, Del.	8	179	22.4	29	0
Rouson, Lee, Giants	8	130	16.3	21	0
Starring, Stephen, Del.	8	130	16.3	22	0
Ingram, Mark, Giants	8	129	16.1	27	0
Mayes, Ruben, N.O.	7	132	18.9	33	0
Oliphant, Mike, Wash.	7	127	18.1	26	0
Barnes, Lew, Atl.	6	142	23.7	36	0
Haddix, Wayne, Giants	6	123	20.5	24	0
Haynes, Michael, Atl.	6	113	18.8	25	0
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	6	111	18.5	30	0
Rodgers, Del, S.F.	6	98	16.3	24	0
Dozier, D. J., Minn.	5	105	21.0	27	0
Abercrombie, Walter, Phil.	5	87	17.4	31	0
Gage, Steve, Wash.	5	60	12.0	17	0
Jefferson, Norman, G.B.	4	116	29.0	46	0
Woolfolk, Butch, Del.	4	99	24.8	46	0
Collins, Mark, Giants	4	67	16.8	26	0
White, Sheldon, Giants	3	62	20.7	26	0
Griffin, Keith, Wash.	3	45	15.0	24	0
Pilow, Frank, T.B.	3	38	12.7	17	0
McDonald, Mike, Rams	3	34	11.3	22	0
Muster, Brad, Chi.	3	33	11.0	15	0
Martin, Eric, N.O.	3	32	10.7	18	0

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STATISTICS

RECORDS

Points: 155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964)
 Touchdowns: 23, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)
 Field goals: 34, Jim Turner, New York (1968)
 Extra points: 66, Uwe von Schamann, Miami (1984)

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Cincinnati	59	27	28	4	56	59	12	18	1	448
Houston	51	26	21	4	48	51	22	34	2	424
Jets	43	19	20	4	43	43	23	28	1	372
Indianapolis	40	23	15	2	39	40	25	32	0	354
Seattle	39	14	22	3	39	39	22	28	0	339
Pittsburgh	36	17	15	4	34	36	28	36	1	336
Buffalo	33	15	15	3	33	33	32	37	1	329
Denver	37	13	24	0	36	37	23	36	0	327
Raiders	39	15	21	3	37	39	18	29	0	325
Miami	41	11	29	1	37	41	12	23	0	319
Cleveland	33	10	19	4	32	33	24	29	1	304
Kansas City	24	8	16	0	23	24	27	32	3	254
New England	31	17	12	2	25	31	13	24	0	250
San Diego	27	11	11	5	27	27	14	20	0	231

SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Stradford, Troy, <i>Mia.</i>	3	2	1	0	18
Vick, Roger, <i>Jets</i>	3	3	0	0	18
Wilson, Stanley, <i>Cin.</i>	3	2	1	0	18
Banks, Fred, <i>Mia.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Boyer, Mark, <i>Ind.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Dawson, Lin, <i>N.E.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Dupard, Reggie, <i>N.E.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Flutie, Darren, <i>S.D.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Fontenot, Herman, <i>Clev.</i>	2	0	1	1	12
Gault, Willie, <i>Raiders</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Highsmith, Alonzo, <i>Hou.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Holland, Jamie, <i>S.D.</i>	2	0	1	1	12
Jennings, Stanford, <i>Cin.</i>	2	1	0	1	12
Junkin, Trey, <i>Raiders</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Largent, Steve, <i>Sea.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Manoa, Tim, <i>Clev.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
McMillan, Erik, <i>Jets</i>	2	0	0	2	12
Mobley, Orson, <i>Den.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Newsome, Ozzie, <i>Clev.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Rolle, Butch, <i>Buff.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Saxon, James, <i>K.C.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Sohn, Kurt, <i>Jets</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Stone, Dwight, <i>Pitt.</i>	2	0	1	1	12
Tatupu, Mosi, <i>N.E.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Thomas, Thurman, <i>Buff.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Townsend, Greg, <i>Raiders</i>	2	0	0	2	12
Turner, Ricky, <i>Ind.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Willhite, Gerald, <i>Den.</i>	2	2	0	0	12

continued

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS		TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Norwood, Scott, <i>Buff.</i>	33	33	32	37	129	Hoge, Merrill, <i>Pitt.</i>	6	3	3	0	36
Anderson, Gary, <i>Pitt.</i>	34	35	28	36	118	Jackson, Mark, <i>Den.</i>	6	0	6	0	36
Biasucci, Dean, <i>Ind.</i>	39	40	25	32	114	Lipps, Louis, <i>Pitt.</i>	6	1	5	0	36
Zendejas, Tony, <i>Hou.</i>	48	50	22	34	114	McGee, Tim, <i>Cin.</i>	6	0	6	0	36
Leahy, Pat, <i>Jets</i>	43	43	23	28	112	Palmer, Paul, <i>K.C.</i>	6	2	4	0	36
Johnson, Norm, <i>Sea.</i>	39	39	22	28	105	Perryman, Bob, <i>N.E.</i>	6	0	0	0	36
Karlis, Rich, <i>Den.</i>	36	37	23	36	105	Reed, Andre, <i>Buff.</i>	6	0	6	0	36
Bahr, Matt, <i>Clev.</i>	32	33	24	29	104	Sewell, Steve, <i>Den.</i>	6	1	5	0	36
Lowery, Nick, <i>K.C.</i>	23	23	27	32	104	Byner, Ernest, <i>Clev.</i>	5	3	2	0	30
Bahr, Chris, <i>Raiders</i>	37	39	18	29	91	Carter, Rodney, <i>Pitt.</i>	5	3	2	0	30
Breche, Jim, <i>Cin.</i>	56	59	11	16	89	Dorsett, Tony, <i>Den.</i>	5	5	0	0	30
Reveziz, Fuad, <i>Mia.</i>	31	32	8	12	55	Fryar, Irving, <i>N.E.</i>	5	0	5	0	30
Abbott, Vince, <i>S.D.</i>	15	15	8	12	39	Givins, Ernest, <i>Hou.</i>	5	0	5	0	30
Staurowsky, Jason, <i>N.E.</i>	14	15	7	11	35	Jensen, Jim, <i>Mia.</i>	5	0	5	0	30
DeLine, Steve, <i>S.D.</i>	12	12	6	8	30	Johnson, Vance, <i>Den.</i>	5	0	5	0	30
Garcia, Teddy, <i>N.E.</i>	11	16	6	13	29	Moon, Warren, <i>Hou.</i>	5	5	0	0	30
Franklin, Tony, <i>Mia.</i>	6	7	4	11	18	Shuler, Mickey, <i>Jets</i>	5	0	5	0	30
Johnson, Lee, <i>Cin.</i>	0	0	1	2	3	Stephens, John, <i>N.E.</i>	5	4	0	1	30

NON-KICKERS

12 or more points	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS		TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Dickerson, Eric, <i>Ind.</i>	15	14	1	0	90	Bouza, Matt, <i>Ind.</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Woods, Ickey, <i>Cin.</i>	15	15	0	0	90	Butler, Raymond, <i>Sea.</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Brooks, James, <i>Cin.</i>	14	8	6	0	84	Early, Quinn, <i>S.D.</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Clayton, Mark, <i>Mia.</i>	14	0	14	0	84	Fernandez, Mervyn, <i>Raiders</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Riddick, Robb, <i>Buff.</i>	14	12	1	1	84	Harmon, Ronnie, <i>Buff.</i>	4	1	3	0	24
Hampton, Lorenzo, <i>Mia.</i>	12	9	3	0	72	Kay, Clarence, <i>Den.</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Warner, Curt, <i>Sea.</i>	12	10	2	0	72	Malone, Mark, <i>S.D.</i>	4	4	0	0	24
Rozier, Mike, <i>Hous.</i>	11	10	1	0	66	Miller, Anthony, <i>S.D.</i>	4	0	3	1	24
Hector, Johnny, <i>Jets</i>	10	10	0	0	60	Morgan, Stanley, <i>N.E.</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Hill, Drew, <i>Hou.</i>	10	0	10	0	60	Anderson, Gary, <i>S.D.</i>	3	3	0	0	18
Brown, Eddie, <i>Cin.</i>	9	0	9	0	54	Bentley, Albert, <i>Ind.</i>	3	2	1	0	18
Pinkett, Allen, <i>Hou.</i>	9	7	2	0	54	Brooks, Bill, <i>Ind.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Smith, Steve, <i>Raiders</i>	9	3	6	0	54	Carson, Carlos, <i>K.C.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Allen, Marcus, <i>Raiders</i>	8	7	1	0	48	Chandler, Chris, <i>Ind.</i>	3	3	0	0	18
Blades, Brian, <i>Sea.</i>	8	0	8	0	48	Edmunds, Ferrell, <i>Mia.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Langhorne, Reggie, <i>Clev.</i>	8	1	7	0	48	Holman, Rodney, <i>Cin.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Brown, Tim, <i>Raiders</i>	7	1	5	1	42	Jackson, Bo, <i>Raiders</i>	3	3	0	0	18
McNeil, Freeman, <i>Jets</i>	7	6	1	0	42	Jackson, Ernest, <i>Pitt.</i>	3	3	0	0	18
Paige, Stephone, <i>K.C.</i>	7	0	7	0	42	Mack, Kevin, <i>Clev.</i>	3	3	0	0	18
Walker, Wesley, <i>Jets</i>	7	0	7	0	42	Okoye, Christian, <i>K.C.</i>	3	3	0	0	18
Williams, John L., <i>Sea.</i>	7	4	3	0	42	Redden, Barry, <i>S.D.</i>	3	3	0	0	18
Brister, Bubby, <i>Pitt.</i>	6	6	0	0	36	Slaughter, Webster, <i>Clev.</i>	3	0	3	0	18

* safety t = touchdown f = fair catch

Eric Dickerson



PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 378, Dan Marino, Miami (1986)

Touchdowns: 48, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)

Yards: 5,084, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Jim Plunkett to Cliff Branch, Los Angeles (1983)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	Avg	TD	PCT	TD	LONG	INT	PCT	INT	SACK	YDS LOST	RATING
Esias, Boomer, Cin.	388	223	57.5	3572	9.21	28	7.2	186	14	3.6	30	245	97.4		
Krieg, Dave, Sea.	228	134	58.8	1741	7.64	18	7.9	175	8	3.5	12	92	94.6		
Moon, Warren, Hou.	294	160	54.4	2327	7.91	17	5.8	157	8	2.7	12	120	88.4		
Kosar, Bernie, Clev.	259	156	60.2	1890	7.30	10	3.9	177	7	2.7	25	172	84.3		
Marino, Dan, Mia.	606	354	58.4	4434	7.32	28	4.6	180	23	3.8	6	31	80.8		
O'Brien, Ken, Jets	424	236	55.7	2567	6.05	15	3.5	150	7	1.7	37	267	78.6		
Kelly, Jim, Buff.	452	269	59.5	3380	7.48	15	3.3	166	17	3.8	30	229	78.2		
DeBerg, Steve, K.C.	414	224	54.1	2935	7.09	16	3.9	180	16	3.9	30	246	73.5		
Eway, John, Den.	496	274	55.2	3309	6.67	17	3.4	86	19	3.8	30	237	71.4		
Chandler, Chris, Ind.	233	129	55.4	1619	6.95	8	3.4	54	12	5.2	18	128	67.2		
Beuerlein, Steve, Raiders	238	105	44.1	1643	6.90	8	3.4	57	7	2.9	26	215	66.6		
Brister, Bubby, Pitt.	370	175	47.3	2634	7.12	11	3.0	189	14	3.8	36	292	65.3		
Schroeder, Jay, Raiders	256	113	44.1	1839	7.18	13	5.1	185	13	5.1	19	178	64.6		
Malone, Mark, S.D.	272	147	54.0	1580	5.81	6	2.2	59	13	4.8	9	45	58.8		

NON-QUALIFIERS (12 or more attempts)

Jaworski, Ron, Mia.	14	9	64.3	123	8.79	1	7.1	22	0	0.0	1	10	116.1
Karcher, Ken, Den.	12	6	50.0	128	10.67	1	8.3	174	0	0.0	0	0	116.0
Kubiak, Gary, Den.	69	43	62.3	497	7.20	5	7.2	168	3	4.3	2	13	90.1
Strock, Don, Clev.	91	55	60.4	736	8.09	6	6.6	41	5	5.5	4	26	85.2
Ryan, Pat, Jets	113	63	55.8	807	7.14	5	4.4	142	4	3.5	5	24	78.3
Hogeboom, Gary, Ind.	131	76	58.0	996	7.60	7	5.3	58	7	5.3	12	88	77.7
Danielson, Gary, Clev.	52	31	59.6	324	6.23	0	0.0	26	1	1.9	6	43	69.7
Stouffer, Kelly, Sea.	173	98	56.6	1106	6.39	4	2.3	53	6	3.5	13	110	69.2
Pagel, Mike, Clev.	134	71	53.0	736	5.49	3	2.2	28	4	3.0	1	9	64.1
Flutie, Doug, N.E.	179	92	51.4	1150	6.42	8	4.5	180	10	5.6	11	65	63.3
Eason, Tony, N.E.	43	28	65.1	249	5.79	0	0.0	26	2	4.7	2	12	61.1
Blackledge, Todd, Pitt.	79	38	48.1	494	6.25	2	2.5	34	3	3.8	4	25	60.8
Lautenberg, Babe, S.D.	144	69	47.9	778	5.40	4	2.8	147	5	3.5	18	155	59.3
Carlson, Cody, Hou.	112	52	46.4	775	6.92	4	3.6	151	6	5.4	10	72	59.2
Vlasic, Mark, S.D.	52	25	48.1	270	5.19	1	1.9	57	2	3.8	3	32	54.2
Kenney, Bill, K.C.	114	58	50.9	549	4.82	0	0.0	25	5	4.4	13	107	46.3
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	140	67	47.9	834	5.96	4	2.9	141	13	9.3	8	77	37.6
Bono, Steve, Pitt.	35	10	28.6	110	3.14	1	2.9	15	2	5.7	1	8	25.9
Trudeau, Jack, Ind.	34	14	41.2	158	4.65	0	0.0	48	3	8.8	2	13	19.0
Ramsey, Tom, N.E.	27	12	44.4	100	3.70	0	0.0	23	3	11.1	2	6	15.0
Kemp, Jeff, Sea.	35	13	37.1	132	3.77	0	0.0	19	5	14.3	3	21	9.2
Pease, Brent, Hou.	22	6	27.3	64	2.91	0	0.0	21	4	18.2	2	18	0.0

PUNTING

RECORDS

Number: 105, Bob Scarpitto, Denver (1967)

Average: 46.2 yards, Dave Lewis, Cincinnati (1970)

Longest: 98 yards, Steve O'Neal, New York (1969)

NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG	
Newsome, Harry, Pitt.	65	2950	62	45.4	10	6	40	418	9	32.8
Mojsienko, Ralf, S.D.	85	3745	62	44.1	11	1	56	558	22	34.5
Horan, Mike, Den.	65	2861	70	44.0	2	0	33	364	19	37.8
Stark, Rohn, Ind.	64	2784	65	43.5	8	0	37	418	15	34.5
Roby, Reggie, Mia.	64	2754	64	43.0	9	0	35	318	18	35.3
Gossett, Jeff, Raiders	91	3804	58	41.8	8	0	47	397	27	35.7
Rodriguez, Ruben, Sea.	70	2858	68	40.8	4	0	36	202	14	36.8
Goodburn, Kelly, C.C.	76	3059	59	40.3	8	0	48	473	10	31.9
Runager, Max, S.F.-Clev.	49	1959	52	40.0	2	2	25	201	13	33.7
Kidd, John, Buff.	62	2451	60	39.5	2	0	36	222	13	35.3
Prokop, Joe, Jels.	85	3310	64	38.9	10	0	34	201	26	34.2
Montgomery, Greg, Hou.	65	2523	61	38.8	5	0	35	206	12	34.1
Feagles, Jeff, N.E.	91	3482	77	38.3	8	0	37	217	24	34.1
Fulhage, Scott, Cin.	44	1672	53	38.0	5	2	24	220	13	29.4

NON-QUALIFIERS

Johnson, Lee, Clev.-Cin.	31	1237	61	39.9	2	0	15	163	10	33.4
Brech, Jim, Cin.	3	64	30	21.3	1	0	0	0	1	14.7
Eway, John, Den.	3	117	40	39.0	0	0	0	0	2	39.0
Esias, Boomer, Cin.	1	21	21	21.0	0	0	0	0	0	21.1

Leader based on gross average, minimum 40 punts

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AFC statistics

	ATT	YARDS	Avg	Long	TD		NO	YARDS	Avg	Long	TD
Allen, Marvin, N.E.	7	40	5.7	12	0	Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.	35	343	9.8	28	2
Willhite, Gerald, Den.	13	39	3.0	7	2	Kay, Clarence, Den.	34	352	10.4	27	4
Bell, Ken, Den.	9	36	4.0	6	0	Allen, Marcus, Raiders	34	303	8.9	130	1
Carlson, Cody, Hou.	12	36	3.0	10	1	McNeil, Freeman, Jets	34	288	8.5	25	1
Beuerlein, Steve, Raiders	30	35	1.2	20	0	Dupard, Reggie, N.E.	34	232	6.8	15	0
DeBerg, Steve, K.C.	18	30	1.7	13	1	Edmunds, Ferrell, Mia.	33	575	17.4	180	3
Redden, Barry, S.D.	19	30	1.6	15	3	Fryar, Irving, N.E.	33	490	14.8	180	5
Stouffer, Kelly, Sea.	19	27	1.4	17	0	Metzelaars, Pete, Buff.	33	438	13.3	35	1
Givins, Ernest, Hou.	4	26	6.5	10	0	Carter, Rodney, Pitt.	32	363	11.3	33	2
Langhorne, Reggie, Clev.	2	26	13.0	120	1	Willhite, Gerald, Den.	32	238	7.4	15	0
Blackledge, Todd, Pitt.	8	25	3.1	10	1	Anderson, Gary, S.D.	32	182	5.7	20	0
O'Brien, Ken, Jets	21	25	1.2	17	0	Fernandez, Mervyn, Raiders	31	805	26.0	185	4
Blades, Brian, Sea.	5	24	4.8	12	0	Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	31	502	16.2	32	4
Ryan, Pat, Jets	5	22	4.4	15	0	Slaughter, Webster, Clev.	30	462	15.4	41	3
Cribbs, Joe, Mia.	5	21	4.2	11	0	Davenport, Ron, Mia.	30	282	9.4	27	0
Thomas, Calvin, Chi.-Den.	6	20	3.3	8	0	Riddick, Robb, Buff.	30	282	9.4	26	1
Baker, Tony, Clev.	3	19	6.3	13	0	Weathers, Clarence, Clev.	29	436	15.0	49	1
Holland, Jamie, S.D.	3	19	6.3	10	0	Early, Quinn, S.D.	29	375	12.9	138	4
Eason, Tony, N.E.	5	18	3.6	10	0	Bernstein, Rod, S.D.	29	340	11.7	59	0
Goodburn, Kelly, K.C.	1	15	15.0	15	0	Brooks, James, Cin.	29	287	9.9	128	6
James, Craig, N.E.	4	15	3.8	18	1	Tice, Mike, Sea.	29	244	8.4	26	0
Faaola, Nuu, Jets	1	13	13.0	13	0	Lofton, James, Raiders	28	549	19.6	57	0
Harmon, Kevin, Sea.	2	13	6.5	8	0	Boyer, Mark, Ind.	27	256	9.5	124	2
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	6	12	2.0	6	0	Walker, Wesley, Jets	26	551	21.2	150	7
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	6	12	2.0	6	1	Harry, Emile, K.C.	26	362	13.9	38	1
Strachan, Steve, Raiders	4	12	3.0	5	0	Smith, Steve, Raiders	26	299	11.5	145	6
Walker, Wesley, Jets	1	12	12.0	12	0	Bentley, Albert, Ind.	26	252	9.7	21	1
Leahy, Pat, Jets	1	10	10.0	10	0	Hector, Johnny, Jets	26	237	9.1	30	0
Logan, Marc, Cin.	2	10	5.0	9	0	Beach, Pat, Ind.	26	235	9.0	23	0
Schonert, Turk, Mia.	2	10	5.0	7	0	Bouza, Matt, Ind.	25	342	13.7	28	4
Fernandez, Mervyn, Raiders	1	9	9.0	9	0	Skansi, Paul, Sea.	24	238	9.9	21	1
Ramsey, Tom, N.E.	3	8	2.7	9	0	Banks, Fred, Mia.	23	430	18.7	55	2
Bernstein, Rod, S.D.	2	7	3.5	5	0	Burkett, Chris, Buff.	23	354	15.4	34	1
Morris, Randall, Sea.	3	6	2.0	5	0	Hampton, Lorenzo, Mia.	23	204	8.9	139	3
Jackson, Mark, Den.	1	5	5.0	5	0	Lockett, Charles, Pitt.	22	365	16.6	44	1
Norseth, Mike, Cin.	1	5	5.0	5	0	Jones, Cedric, N.E.	22	313	14.2	141	1
Tillman, Spencer, Hou.	3	5	1.7	2	Duncan, Curtis, Hou.	22	302	13.7	36	1	
Toon, Al, Jets	1	5	5.0	5	0	Hayes, Jonathan, K.C.	22	233	10.6	25	1
Clayton, Mark, Mia.	1	4	4.0	4	0	Warner, Curt, Sea.	22	154	7.0	17	2
Gault, Willie, Raiders	1	4	4.0	4	0	Mobley, Orson, Den.	21	218	10.4	28	2
Kenney, Bill, K.C.	2	4	2.0	2	Woods, Ickey, Cin.	21	199	9.5	25	0	

PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 101, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1964)
Yards: 1,746, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1961)
TDs: 18, Mark Clayton, Miami (1984)

	NO	YARDS	Avg	Long	TD
Toon, Al, Jets	93	1067	11.5	42	5
Clayton, Mark, Mia.	86	1129	13.1	145	14
Hill, Drew, Hou.	72	1141	15.8	157	10
Reed, Andre, Buff.	71	968	13.6	165	6
Shuler, Mickey, Jets	70	805	11.5	142	5
Johnson, Vance, Den.	68	896	13.2	86	5
Paige, Stephone, K.C.	61	902	14.8	49	7
Givins, Ernest, Hou.	60	976	16.3	46	5
Byner, Ernest, Clev.	59	576	9.8	139	2
Jensen, Jim, Mia.	58	652	11.2	31	5
Williams, John L., Sea.	58	651	11.2	175	3
Langhorne, Reggie, Clev.	57	780	13.7	177	7
Stradford, Troy, Mia.	56	426	7.6	36	1
Brooks, Bill, Ind.	54	867	16.1	153	3
Brown, Eddie, Cin.	53	1273	24.0	186	9
Palmer, Paul, K.C.	53	611	11.5	171	4
Lipps, Louis, Pitt.	50	973	19.5	189	5
Hoge, Merrill, Pitt.	50	487	9.7	40	3
Jackson, Mark, Den.	46	852	18.5	63	6
Carson, Carlos, K.C.	46	711	15.5	180	3
Brennan, Brian, Clev.	46	579	12.6	33	1
Natiel, Ricky, Den.	46	574	12.5	74	1
Brown, Tim, Raiders	43	725	16.9	165	5
Blades, Brian, Sea.	40	682	17.1	55	8
Largent, Steve, Sea.	39	645	16.5	46	2
Duper, Mark, Mia.	39	626	16.1	56	1
Holland, Jamie, S.D.	39	536	13.7	45	1
Holman, Rodney, Cin.	39	527	13.5	33	3
Sewell, Steve, Den.	38	507	13.3	168	5
Johnson, Trumaine, Buff.	37	514	13.9	49	0
Harmon, Ronnie, Buff.	37	427	11.5	36	3
McGee, Tim, Cin.	36	686	19.1	178	6
Miller, Anthony, S.D.	36	526	14.6	49	3
Dickerson, Eric, Ind.	36	377	10.5	150	1
James, Lionel, S.D.	36	279	7.8	31	1

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AFCstatistics

	NO	YARDS	Avg	Long	TD
Sohn, Kurt, Jets	7	66	9.4	17	2
Schwedes, Scott, Mia.	6	130	21.7	42	0
Dunin, K. D., Jets	6	67	11.2	26	0
Williams, Jamie, Hou.	6	46	7.7	10	0
Moriarty, Larry, K.C.	6	40	6.7	12	0
Kane, Tommy, Sea.	6	32	5.3	9	0
Hillary, Ira, Cin.	5	76	15.2	31	1
Jennings, Stanford, Cin.	5	75	15.0	31	0
McNeil, Gerald, Clev.	5	74	14.8	23	0
Bellini, Mark, Ind.	5	64	12.8	25	0
Mueller, Vance, Raiders	5	63	12.6	28	0
Spagnola, John, Sea.	5	40	8.0	16	1
Martin, Sammy, N.E.	4	51	12.8	21	0
Hardy, Bruce, Mia.	4	46	11.5	19	0
Townsell, JoJo, Jets	4	40	10.0	19	0
Parker, Andy, Raiders	4	33	8.3	12	0
Junkin, Trey, Raiders	4	25	6.3	9	2
Massie, Rick, Den.	3	39	13.0	21	0
Agee, Tommie, Sea.	3	31	10.3	13	0
Jones, Anthony, Wash.-S.D.	3	21	7.0	11	0
Strachan, Steve, Raiders	3	19	6.3	11	1
Jeffires, Haywood, Hou.	2	49	24.5	42	1
Pruitt, James, Mia.	2	38	19.0	19	0
Young, Glen, Clev.	2	34	17.0	25	0
Martin, Mike, Cin.	2	22	11.0	115	1
Pollard, Frank, Pitt.	2	22	11.0	19	0
Logan, Marc, Cin.	2	20	10.0	17	0
Bennett, Woody, Mia.	2	16	8.0	12	0
Kattus, Eric, Cin.	2	8	4.0	11	0
Rolle, Butch, Buff.	2	3	1.5	12	2
Byrum, Carl, Buff.	2	0	0.0	3	0
Baldinger, Brian, Ind.	1	37	37.0	37	0
Graddy, Sam, Den.	1	30	30.0	30	0
Hinmant, Mike, Pitt.	1	23	23.0	23	0
Beuerlein, Steve, Raiders	1	21	21.0	21	0
Clark, Louis, Sea.	1	20	20.0	120	1
Spencer, Tim, S.D.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Redden, Barry, S.D.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Scott, Willie, N.E.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Johnson, Jason, Den.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Johnson, Steve, N.E.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Kelly, Jim, Buff.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Farrell, Sean, N.E.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Kelly, Pat, Den.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Bolden, Rickey, Clev.	1	3	3.0	t3	1
Kinchen, Brian, Mia.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Sievers, Eric, S.D.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Hinton, Chris, Ind.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Colbert, Darrell, K.C.	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
Donaldson, Ray, Ind.	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
Gamble, Kenny, K.C.	1	-7	-7.0	-7	0

PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 62, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)

Yards: 692, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)

Longest for TD: 97 yards, Greg Pruitt, Los Angeles (1983)

	NO	FC	YARDS	Avg	Long	TD
Townsell, JoJo, Jets	35	9	409	11.7	159	1
Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	22	7	239	10.9	173	1
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	38	8	398	10.5	30	0
James, Lionel, S.D.	28	11	278	9.9	24	0
Edmonds, B. J., Sea.	35	8	340	9.7	41	0
Nattiel, Ricky, Den.	23	0	223	9.7	24	0
Schwedes, Scott, Mia.	24	7	230	9.6	36	0
Brown, Tim, Raiders	49	10	444	9.1	36	0
Woodson, Rod, Pitt.	33	6	281	8.5	28	0
McNeil, Gerald, Clev.	38	6	315	8.3	32	0
Taylor, Kilrick, K.C.	29	6	187	6.4	16	0
Johnson, Kenny, Hou.	30	6	170	5.7	16	0
NON-QUALIFIERS						
Hillary, Ira, Cin.	17	5	166	9.8	20	0
Johnson, Flip, Buff.	16	3	72	4.5	16	0
Clark, Kevin, Den.	13	0	115	8.8	16	0
Willhite, Gerald, Den.	13	2	90	6.9	12	0
Tucker, Erroll, Buff.	10	5	80	8.0	24	0
Brown, Eddie, Cin.	10	7	48	4.8	13	0
Flutie, Darren, S.D.	7	5	36	5.1	10	0
Adams, Stefon, Raiders	6	0	45	7.5	17	0
Martin, Mike, Cin.	5	5	30	6.0	10	0
Duncan, Curtis, Hou.	4	2	47	11.8	26	0

continued

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AFC Statistics

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Lipps, Louis, Pitt.	4	2	30	7.5	11	0
Williams, Jarvis, Mia.	3	3	29	9.7	14	0
Hollis, David, K.C.	3	0	28	9.3	15	0
Brooks, Bill, Ind.	3	0	15	5.0	8	0
Sohn, Kurt, Jets	3	1	9	3.0	5	0
Harden, Mike, Den.	2	2	14	7.0	14	0
Sanchez, Lupe, Pitt.	2	4	11	5.5	6	0
Weathers, Clarence, Clev.	2	0	10	5.0	9	0
Drewrey, Willie, Hou.	2	2	8	4.0	8	0
Johnson, Jason, Den.	1	0	5	5.0	5	0
Bell, Ken, Den.	1	0	4	4.0	4	0
Glasgow, Nesby, Sea.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Hunter, Patrick, Sea.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Prior, Mike, Ind.	1	5	0	0.0	0	0

INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Number: 13, Lester Hayes, Oakland (1980)
 Yards: 349, Charlie McNeil, San Diego (1961)
 Longest return: 103 yards,
 Vencle Glenn, San Diego (1987)
 TDs: 4, Ken Houston, Houston (1971)
 4, Jim Kearney, Kansas City (1972)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
McMillan, Erik, Jets	8	168	21.0	155	2
Kelso, Mark, Buff.	7	180	25.7	178	1
Byrd, Gil, S.D.	7	82	11.7	42	0
Thomas, Eric, Cin.	7	61	8.7	37	0
Cherry, Deron, K.C.	7	51	7.3	24	0
Moyer, Paul, Sea.	6	79	13.2	34	0
Wright, Felix, Clev.	5	126	25.2	53	0
Taylor, Terry, Sea.	5	53	10.6	127	1
Fulcher, David, Cin.	5	38	7.6	116	1
Hasly, James, Jets	5	20	4.0	16	0
Woodruff, Dwayne, Pitt.	4	109	27.3	178	1
Woodson, Rod, Pitt.	4	98	24.5	29	0
Clayborn, Raymond, N.E.	4	65	16.3	31	0
Williams, Jarvis, Mia.	4	62	15.5	23	0
Judson, William, Mia.	4	57	14.3	52	0
Billups, Lewis, Cin.	4	47	11.8	29	0
Marion, Fred, N.E.	4	47	11.8	22	0
Harden, Mike, Den.	4	36	9.0	34	0
Tullis, Willie, Ind.	4	36	9.0	20	0
James, Roland, N.E.	4	30	7.5	22	0
Donaldson, Jeff, Hou.	4	29	7.3	23	0
Minnifield, Frank, Clev.	4	16	4.0	13	0
Washington, Brian, Clev.	3	104	34.7	175	1
Bryant, Domingo, Hou.	3	56	18.7	136	1
Castille, Jeremiah, Den.	3	51	17.0	33	0
Prior, Mike, Ind.	3	46	15.3	23	0
Jenkins, Mel, Sea.	3	41	13.7	21	0
Everett, Thomas, Pitt.	3	31	10.3	29	0
Haynes, Mike, Raiders	3	30	10.0	30	0
McElroy, Vann, Raiders	3	17	5.7	13	0
Horton, Ray, Cin.	3	13	4.3	11	0
Bickell, Duane, Ind.	3	7	2.3	7	0
Boyle, John, Jets	3	0	0.0	0	0
Johnson, Richard, Hou.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Robbins, Randy, Den.	2	66	33.0	39	0
Browner, Keith, S.D.	2	65	32.5	155	1
Griffin, Larry, Pitt.	2	63	31.5	33	0
Burruss, Lloyd, K.C.	2	57	28.5	32	0
Goode, Chris, Ind.	2	53	26.5	35	0
McSwain, Rod, N.E.	2	51	25.5	42	0
Brown, Steve, Hou.	2	48	24.0	144	1
Daniel, Eugene, Ind.	2	44	22.0	141	1
Johnson, Mike, Clev.	2	36	18.0	31	0
Hollis, David, Sea.	2	32	16.0	30	0
Bennett, Cornelius, Buff.	2	30	15.0	30	0
Smith, Leonard, Phoe-Buff.	2	29	14.5	15	0
Dixon, Hanford, Clev.	2	24	12.0	24	0
Glasgow, Nesby, Sea.	2	19	9.5	19	0
Price, Dennis, Raiders	2	18	9.0	18	0
Fellows, Ron, Raiders	2	14	7.0	14	0
Brown, Mark, Mia.	2	13	6.5	13	0
Harper, Mark, Clev.	2	13	6.5	8	0
Rembert, Johnny, N.E.	2	10	5.0	6	0
Pearson, J. C., K.C.	2	8	4.0	7	0
Braxton, Tyrone, Den.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Lyles, Robert, Hou.	2	3	1.5	3	0
Offerdahl, John, Mia.	2	2	1.0	2	0
Coleman, Leonard, S.D.	2	0	0.0	0	0

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD		NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD		NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Howard, Carl, Jets	2	0	0.0	0	0		Young, Glen, Clev.	29	635	21.9	34	0					
Johnson, Eddie, Clev.	2	0	0.0	0	0		Jennings, Stanford, Cin.	32	684	21.4	198	1					
Miano, Rich, Jets	2	0	0.0	0	0		Bell, Ken, Den.	36	762	21.2	38	0					
Anderson, Eddie, Raiders	2	-6	-3.0	2	0		Cribbs, Joe, Mia.	41	863	21.0	44	0					
Townsend, Greg, Raiders	1	86	86.0	186	1		Stone, Dwight, Pitt.	29	610	21.0	192	1					
Long, Howie, Raiders	1	73	73.0	73	0		Fontenot, Herman, Clev.	21	435	20.7	84	0					
Johnson, Kenny, Hou.	1	51	51.0	51	0		Harris, Leonard, Hou.	34	678	19.9	56	0					
Thomas, Rodney, Mia.	1	48	48.0	48	0		Bentley, Albert, Ind.	39	775	19.9	40	0					
Seale, Eugene, Hou.	1	46	46.0	46	0		Townsell, JoJo, Jets	31	601	19.4	30	0					
Zordich, Mike, Jets	1	35	35.0	135	1		Palmer, Paul, K.C.	23	364	15.8	23	0					
Dean, Vernon, Sea.	1	31	31.0	31	0												
Jordan, Tim, N.E.	1	31	31.0	31	0												
Dennison, Rick, Den.	1	29	29.0	29	0												
Jordan, Darin, Pitt.	1	28	28.0	128	1												
Carr, Gregg, Pitt.	1	27	27.0	27	0												
McKenzie, Reggie, Raiders	1	26	26.0	26	0												
Gowdy, Cornell, Pitt.	1	24	24.0	24	0												
Hill, Greg, K.C.	1	24	24.0	24	0												
Allen, Patrick, Hou.	1	23	23.0	21	0												
McNeal, Don, Mia.	1	23	23.0	23	0												
Bennett, Roy, S.D.	1	21	21.0	21	0												
Lee, Zeph, Raiders	1	20	20.0	20	0												
Smith, Doug, Hou.	1	20	20.0	20	0												
Lewis, Albert, K.C.	1	19	19.0	19	0												
Comeaux, Darren, Sea.	1	18	18.0	18	0												
Croft, Sherman, Buff.	1	17	17.0	17	0												
Graf, Rick, Mia.	1	14	14.0	14	0												
Dixon, Ricky, Cin.	1	13	13.0	13	0												
Fuller, William, Hou.	1	9	9.0	9	0												
Grimsley, John, Hou.	1	9	9.0	9	0												
Smith, Steve, Den.	1	7	7.0	7	0												
McGrew, Larry, N.E.	1	6	6.0	6	0												
Wilcots, Solomon, Cin.	1	6	6.0	6	0												
Stensrud, Mike, K.C.	1	5	5.0	5	0												
Fletcher, Simon, Den.	1	4	4.0	4	0												
Lippett, Ronnie, N.E.	1	4	4.0	4	0												
Davis, Wayne, Buff.	1	3	3.0	3	0												
Krauss, Barry, Ind.	1	3	3.0	3	0												
McArthur, Kevin, Jets	1	3	3.0	3	0												
Zander, Carl, Cin.	1	3	3.0	3	0												
Hinkle, Bryan, Pitt.	1	1	1.0	1	0												
Bentley, Ray, Buff.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Bowman, Jim, N.E.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Cotfield, Tim, K.C.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Conlan, Shane, Buff.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Del Rio, Jack, K.C.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Glenn, Vencie, S.D.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Haynes, Mark, Den.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Humphrey, Bobby, Jets	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Little, David, Pitt.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Nickerson, Hardy, Pitt.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Odomes, Nate, Buff.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Patterson, Elvis, S.D.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Robinson, Eugene, Sea.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Ross, Kevin, K.C.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Sanchez, Lupe, Pitt.	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Washington, Lionel, Raiders	1	0	0.0	0	0												
Brown, Tim, Raiders	41	1098	26.8	197	1												
Holland, Jannie, S.D.	31	810	26.1	194	1												
Miller, Anthony, S.D.	25	648	25.9	193	1												
Humphrey, Bobby, Jets	21	510	24.3	48	0												
Martin, Sammie, N.E.	31	735	23.7	195	1												
Woodson, Rod, Pitt.	37	850	23.0	192	1												
Edmonds, Bobby Joe, Sea.	40	900	22.5	65	0												

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Numbers: 55, Bruce Harper, New York (1978, 1979)

55, David Turner, Cincinnati (1979)

Yards: 1,317 Bobby Jancik, Houston (1963)



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